

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES
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AUTHORITY

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG™



KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!

FOR YEARS, IT SERVED AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS TO THE **FREEDOM FIGHTERS** OF PLANET **MOBIUS**--

--AND ALSO AS A HOME. BUT WITH THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATION OF THE EVIL TECHNO-TYRANT **DOCTOR IVO ROBOTNIK**, THE REBELS HAVE RETURNED TO **MOBOTROPOLIS**--

--THE CITY FROM WHICH THEY WERE CAST OUT SO LONG AGO.

AND WHAT OF KNOTHOLE?

SINCE ITS JAUNT INTO ITS OWN TEMPORAL ZONE THREE HOURS INTO THE **FUTURE***, THE VILLAGERS ARE NO LONGER COMFORTABLE LIVING THERE. WHY?

* It happened in SONIC # 50.--JFG

FOR ONE THING, AS YOU MOVE TOWARDS THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE, AN **INVISIBLE BARRIER** KEEPS YOU FROM THE REST OF **MOBIUS** ON ALL SIDES.

ANOTHER IS, THE ONLY WAY IN OR OUT OF KNOTHOLE'S TEMPORAL ZONE IS THROUGH THE **GREAT OAK SLIDE**. IT MAKES TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH, ESPECIALLY WITH SUPPLIES, THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

NOW, SOME SAY IT'S A **GHOST TOWN**, BUT THEY'RE WRONG.

THERE IS ONE FORMER MEMBER OF THE RESISTANCE WHO STILL EMBRACES ITS FAMILIAR FOREST SURROUNDINGS--

--ONE WHO HAS BECOME SO ACCUSTOMED TO THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR, THAT LEAVING HIS CITY BEHIND WAS THE ONLY REAL ALTERNATIVE. BUT--

-- MAY SOON
FIND OUT HE'S
ONLY --

HOLY SWISS
CHEESE UNCLE CHUCK!
YOUR INSTRUMENTS
ARE GOING --

YES, I
KNOW, TAILS --
HAYWIRE!

YEAH...
COOL!

IT'S WORSE
THAN THAT, MY
YOUTHFUL
FRIEND --

▶ RUNNING ▶
▶ STAND STILL

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**MEEP
MEEP
MEEP**

IT APPEARS
MY DEVICE IS
DONE FOR!

SONIC! HOW ARE
WE SUPPOSED TO
DETERMINE YOUR
MAXIMUM SPEED
IF YOU ACCELERATE
TOO QUICKLY?
YOU KNOW IT WRECKS
THE EQUIPMENT
EVERY TIME!

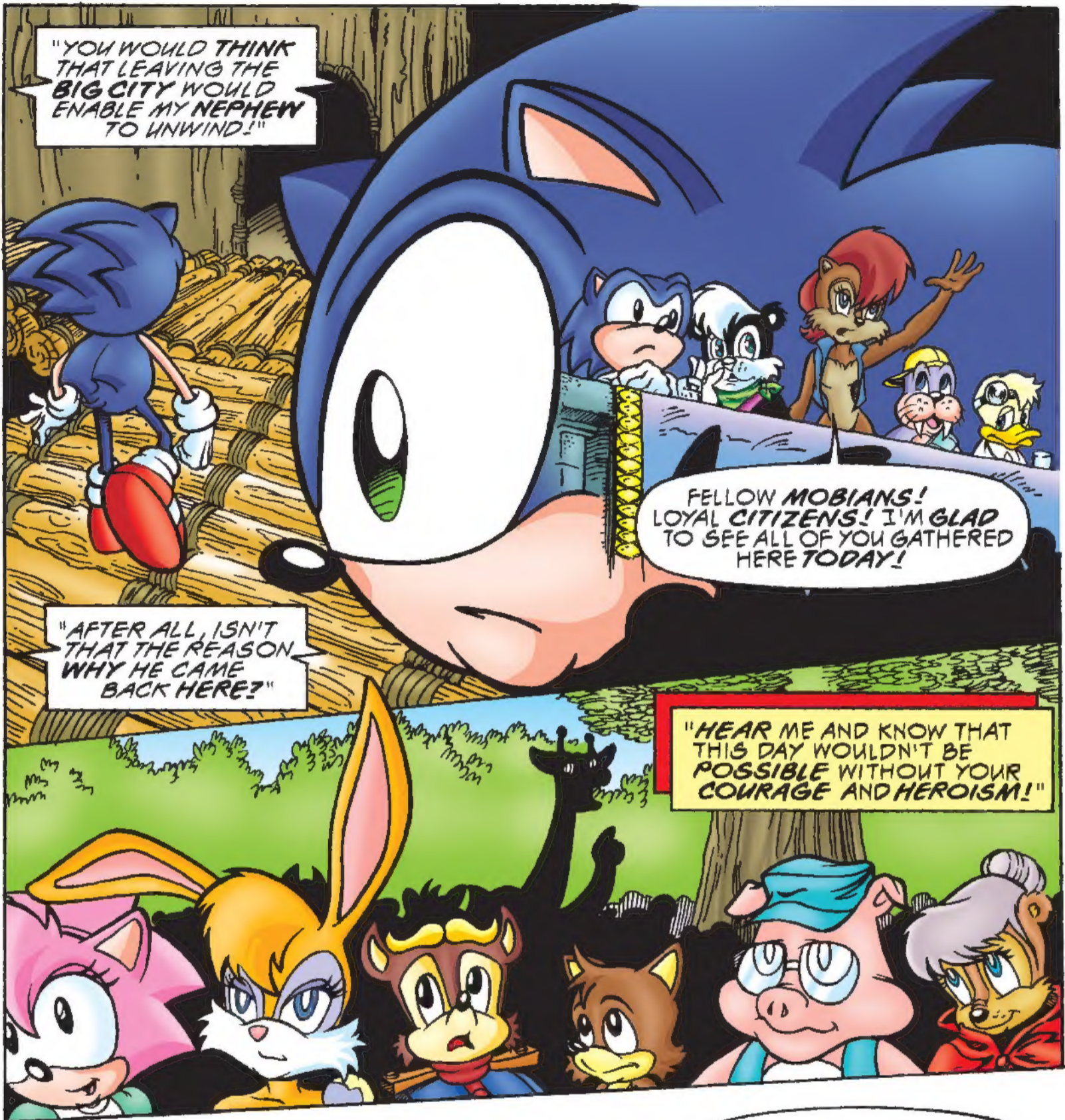
WHAT IN THE
WORLD ARE YOU
ARE YOU REBELLING
AGAINST?

WHADDAYA
GOT?

BOY...

... TALK ABOUT
ATTITUDE!

CERTAINLY
NOT GRATITUDE!
Hrrmhm!



"YOU WOULD THINK THAT LEAVING THE BIG CITY WOULD ENABLE MY NEPHEW TO UNWIND!"

FELLOW MOBIANS! LOYAL CITIZENS! I'M GLAD TO SEE ALL OF YOU GATHERED HERE TODAY!

"AFTER ALL, ISN'T THAT THE REASON WHY HE CAME BACK HERE?"

"HEAR ME AND KNOW THAT THIS DAY WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR COURAGE AND HEROISM!"

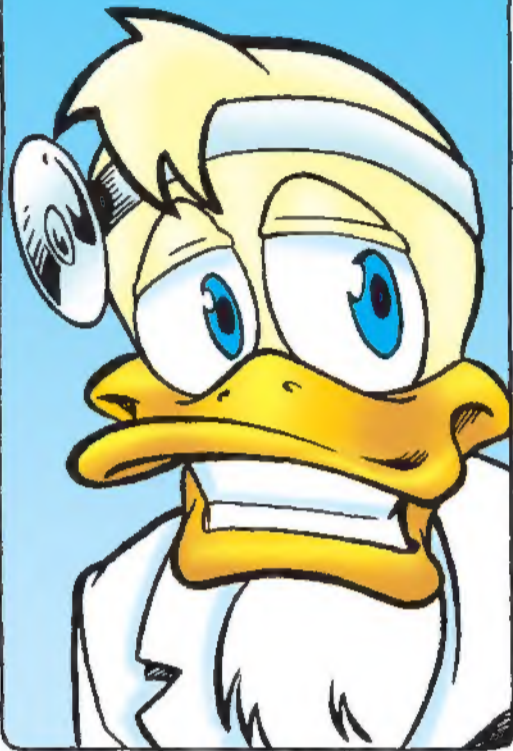


SURE, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN WE WERE FRIGHTENED...

...UNCERTAIN WHETHER ROBOTNIK WOULD CLOSE HIS FIST ABOUT US IN AN IRON GRIP TO SQUEEZE THE VERY HUMANITY OUT OF OUR SOULS!

YES, THEY WERE CHAOTIC TIMES, BUT NOW IT IS TIME TO ESTABLISH ORDER!

I GIVE YOU DOCTOR QUACK —
OUR ROYAL PHYSICIAN —
WHOSE HEALING SKILLS WILL
HELP PUT OUR KINGDOM ON THE
ROAD TO RECOVERY...



... ROTOR — WHOSE
TECHNOLOGICAL TALENTS CAN
TURN ROBOTNIK'S WEAPONS
OF WAR INTO ENGINES
OF PROGRESS...



...GEOFFREY ST. JOHN —
WHOSE OWN SENSE OF
JUSTICE WILL SET THE
STANDARD FOR THAT OF THE
ENTIRE STATE...



... AND SONIC — WHOSE SPEED
AND POPULARITY WILL ROUND
OUT THE MEMBERSHIP OF A NEW
COUNCIL...

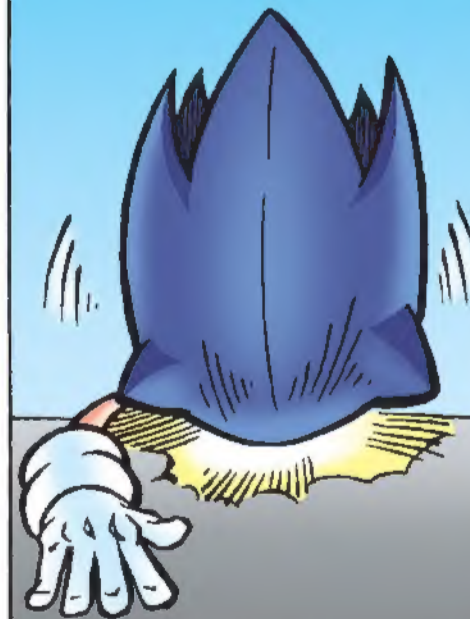


...DEDICATED TO
RESTORING ORDER!

**HIP! HIP!
HOORAY!**



WE WILL NO LONGER BE KNOWN
AS KNOTHOLE VILLAGERS! FROM
TODAY ONWARDS WE SHALL BE
MOBIANS OF MOBOTROPOLIS
ONCE AGAIN. TOMORROW blah blah
blah blah blah blah...



MEANWHILE, MILES AWAY FROM KNOTHOLE VILLAGE, A ROYAL AIRSHIP ROCKETS TO A LOCATION FAR FROM THE CONFINES OF SONIC'S MIND--

...THE DEVIL'S GULAG!!

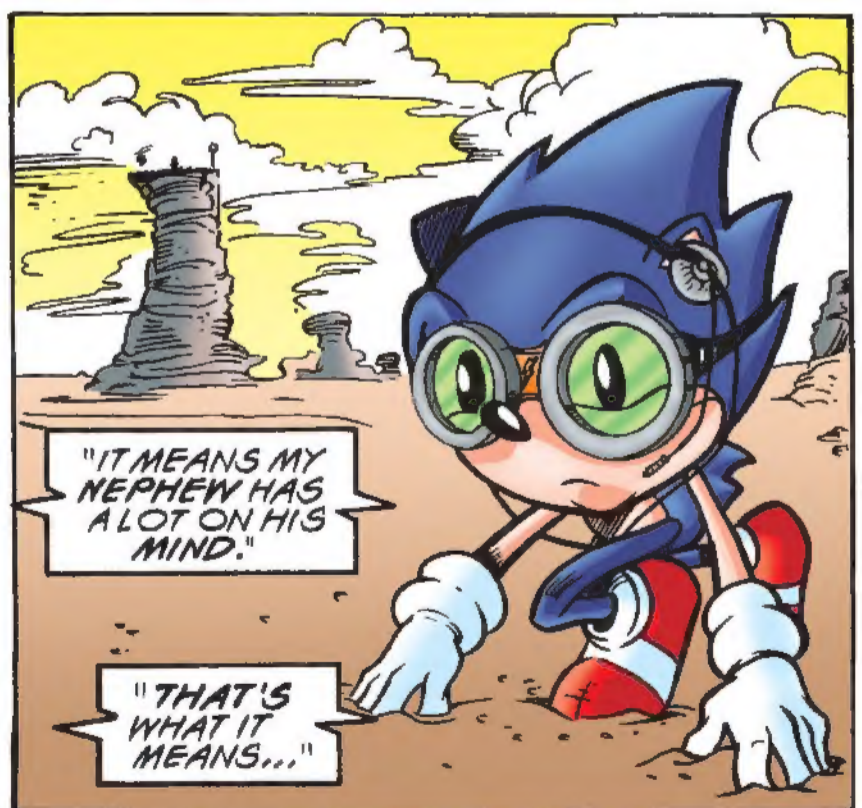
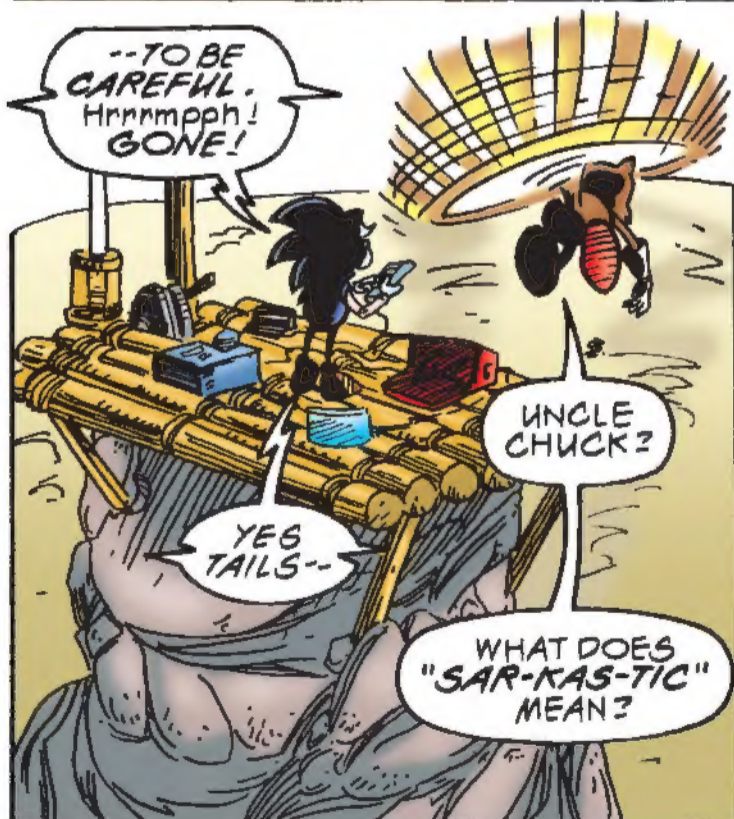
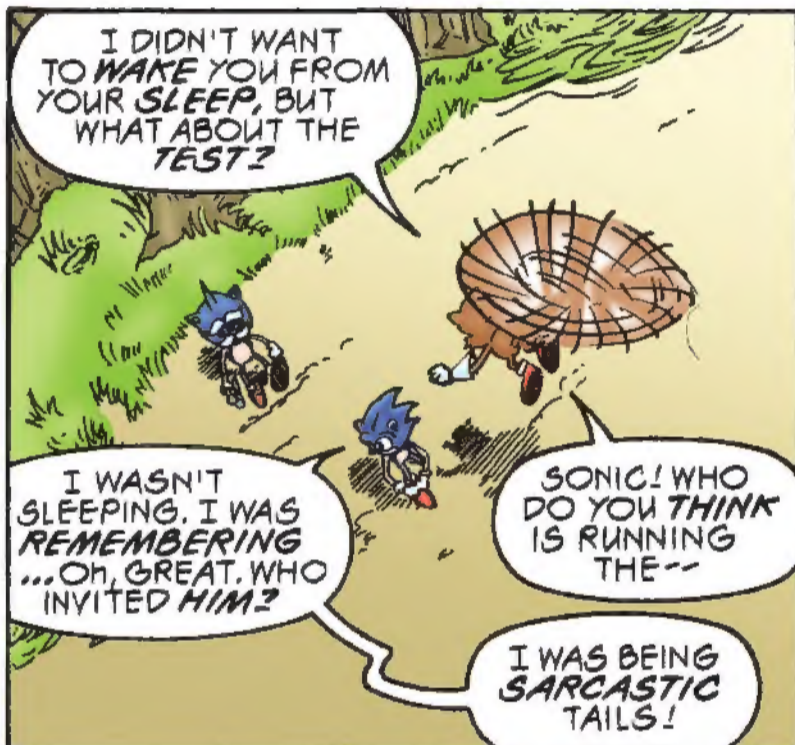
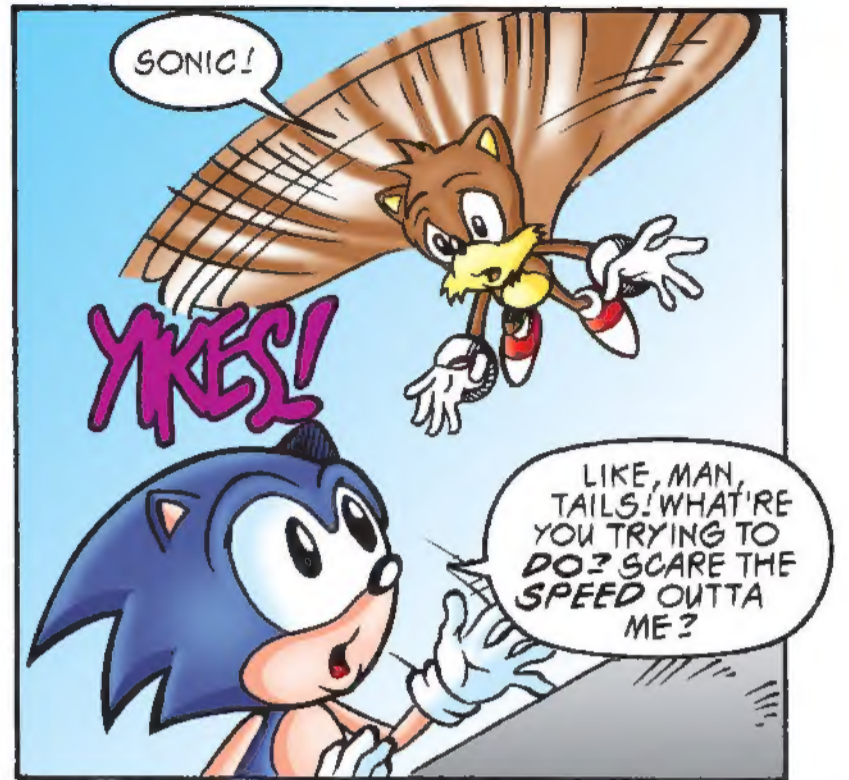
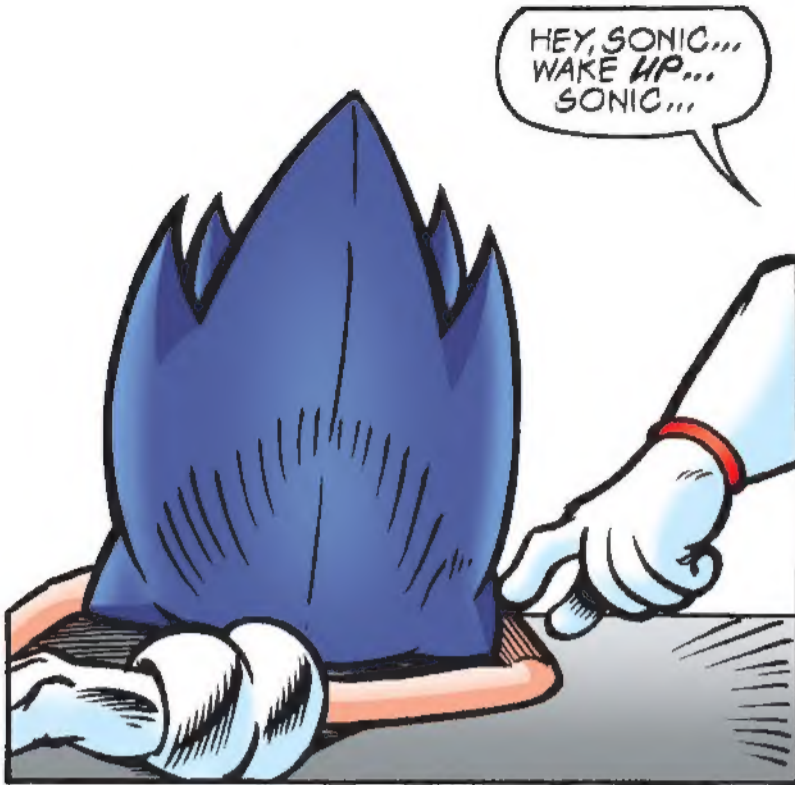
HIDDEN BY A DENSE BANK OF STEAM CLOUDS FROM THE BOILING OCEANS THAT SURROUND IT, THE PRISON COMPLEX SITS FOREBODINGLY ON THE MILE-HIGH ROCKY CRAG THAT PASSES FOR AN ISLAND.

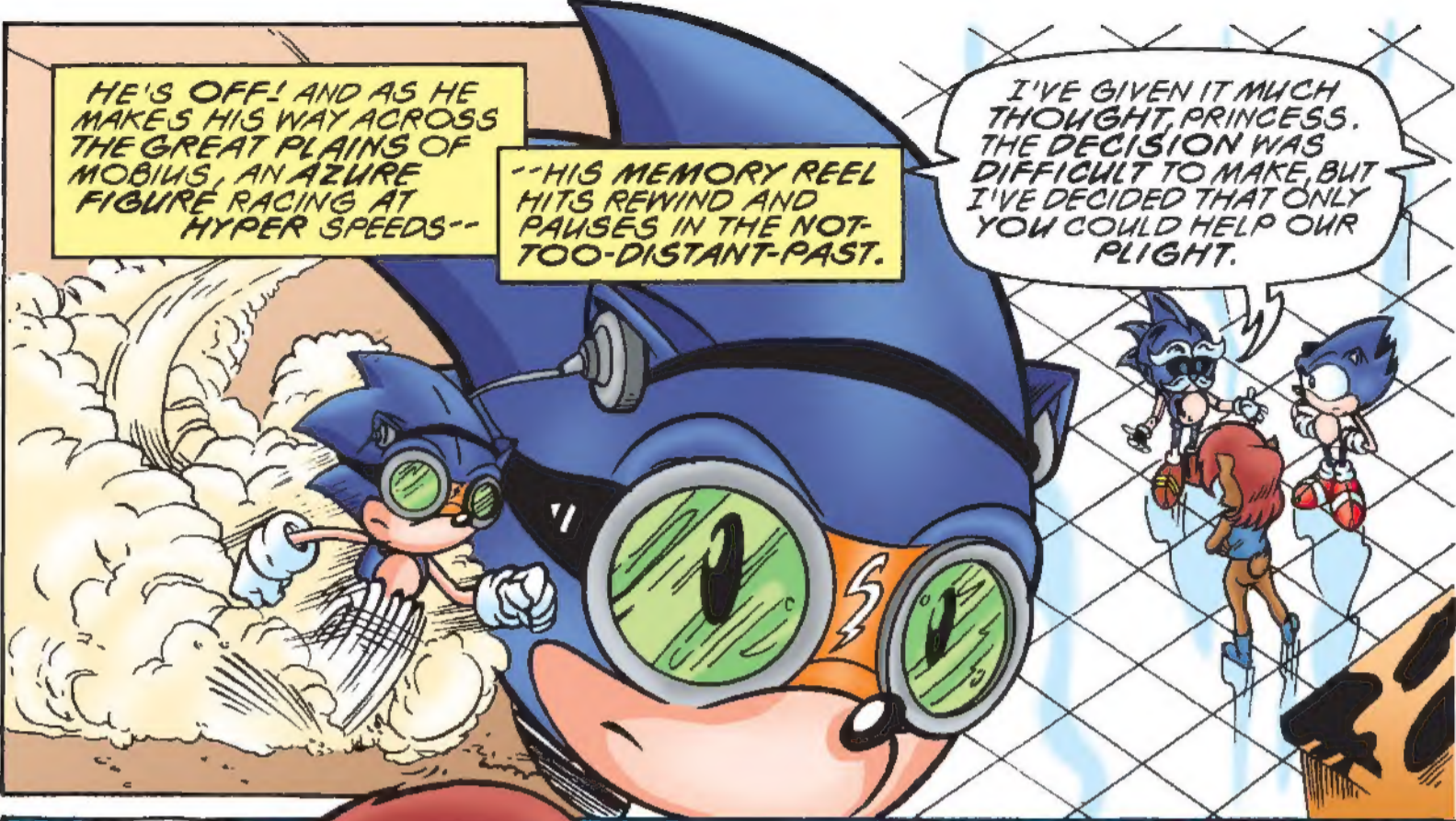
LIKE SOME SKYBOUND SUBMARINE, THE AIRSHIP GENTLY BREAKS THE CLOUD BANK'S SURFACE AS SHE DELIVERS HER FELONIOUS CARGO.

AND WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS IN QUESTION? LET'S FIND OUT...

LIEUTENANT SMILEY!
COMMANDER FLEMING!
ISN'T THAT WARLORD KODOS?
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED
TO HIM?

IT'S QUITE A
STORY, BUT IF YOU'VE
GOT A MINUTE, I'LL
TELL YOU...

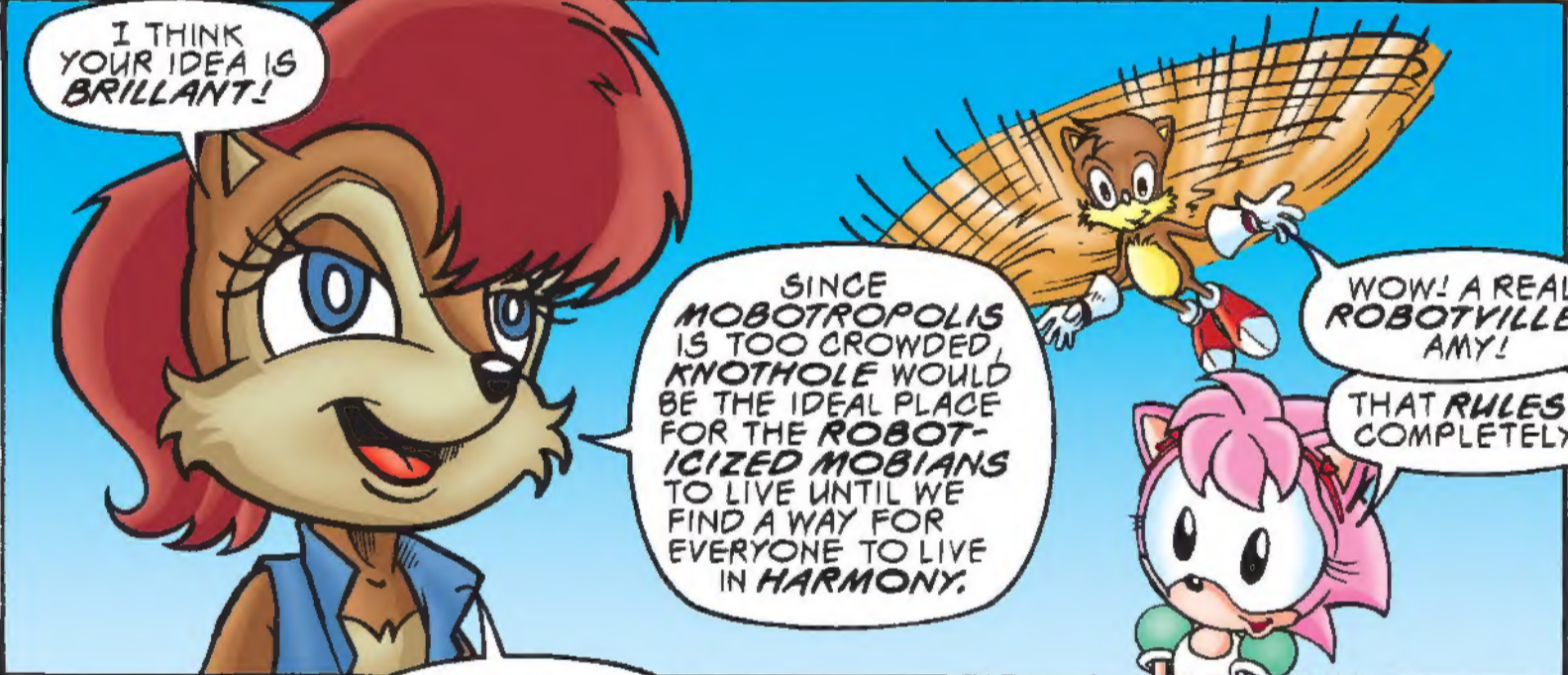




HE'S OFF! AND AS HE MAKES HIS WAY ACROSS THE GREAT PLAINS OF MOBIUS, AN AZURE FIGURE RACING AT HYPER SPEEDS--

--HIS MEMORY REEL HITS REWIND AND PAUSES IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT-PAST.

I'VE GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT, PRINCESS. THE DECISION WAS DIFFICULT TO MAKE, BUT I'VE DECIDED THAT ONLY YOU COULD HELP OUR FLIGHT.



I THINK YOUR IDEA IS BRILLIANT!

SINCE MOBOTROPOLIS IS TOO CROWDED, KNOTHOLE WOULD BE THE IDEAL PLACE FOR THE ROBOT-ICIZED MOBIANS TO LIVE UNTIL WE FIND A WAY FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE IN HARMONY.

WOW! A REAL ROBOTVILLE, AMY!

THAT RULES COMPLETELY!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO OKAY THE MOVE WITH MY DAD.



DON'T SWEAT IT, UNC! KING ACORN IS A RIGHTEOUS MONARCH! IT'LL HAPPEN PDQ!*

I HOPE SO...

* Pretty Darned Quick! -- Fast FREDDY



SCANT MINUTES LATER...

SAY, WHERE'D EVERYBODY TAKE OFF TO?

BOTH SALLY AND YOUR UNCLE LEFT FOR CASTLE ACORN--

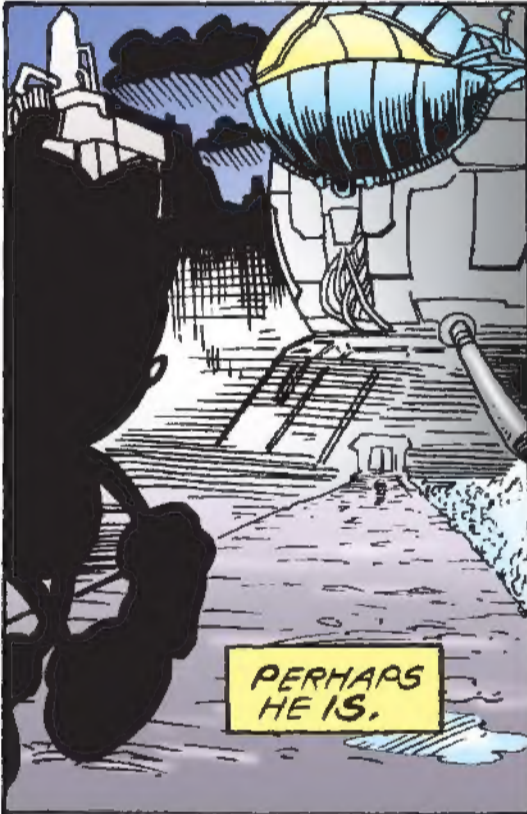
--TO PETITION THE KING



OH, GREAT! JUST GREAT! CAN'T A HEDGEHOG EVEN PUT ON A FRESH PAIR OF RUNNING SHOES WITHOUT EVERYONE GOING OUT AND TRYING TO CHANGE THE WORLD WITHOUT HIM?

HUH?

HE'S EXAGGERATING!

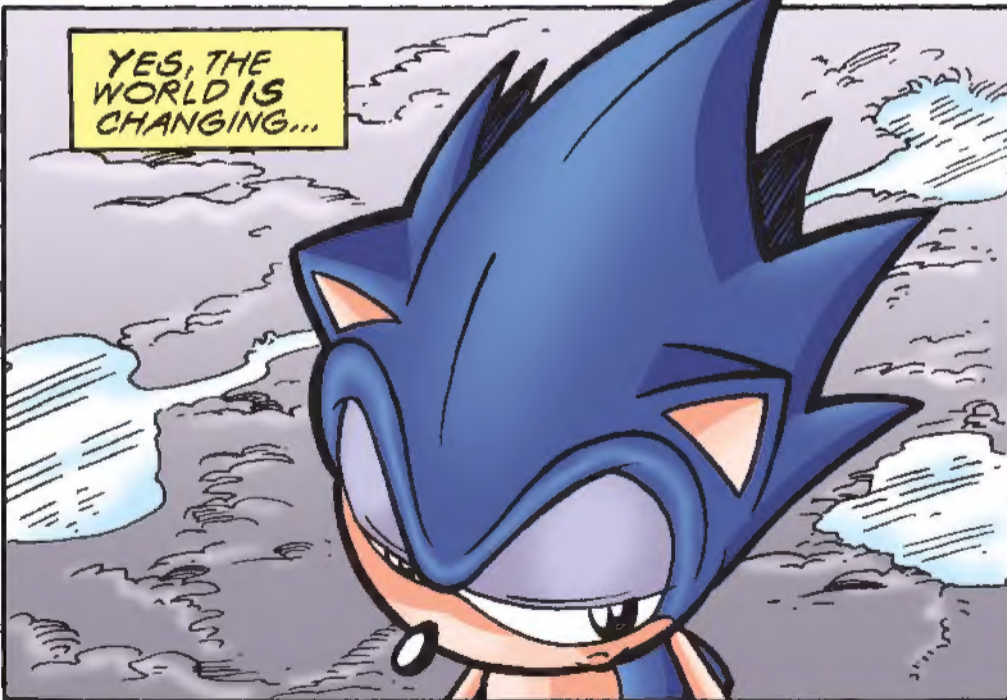


PERHAPS HE IS.

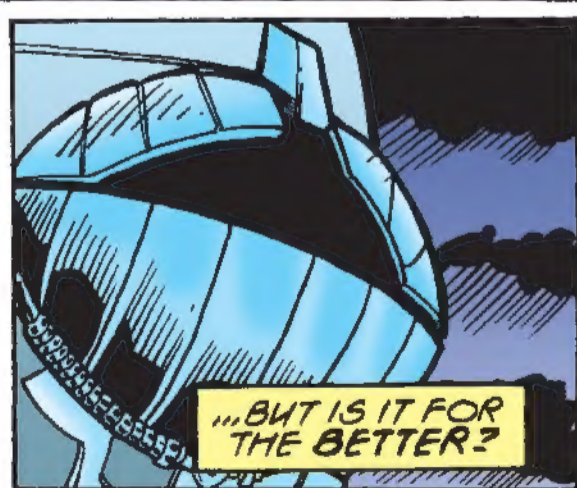


FOR STOPPING SOME SEVERAL YARDS AWAY FROM THE KING'S CASTLE, SONIC WITNESSES A SIGHT THAT SINKS EVEN HIS, THE SWIFTEST OF SPIRITS.

HE DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR WHAT THE PRINCESS SAYS TO KNOW HER FATHER'S RESPONSE. HE CAN SEE IT ON HIS UNCLE'S FACE.



YES, THE WORLD IS CHANGING...



...BUT IS IT FOR THE BETTER?

THE GULAG...

IT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE IT EVEN AFTER BEING TOLD! HOW DID KODOS EVER MANAGE TO ESCAPE FROM THE ZONE OF SILENCE?

YOU HEARD THE LIEUTENANT...

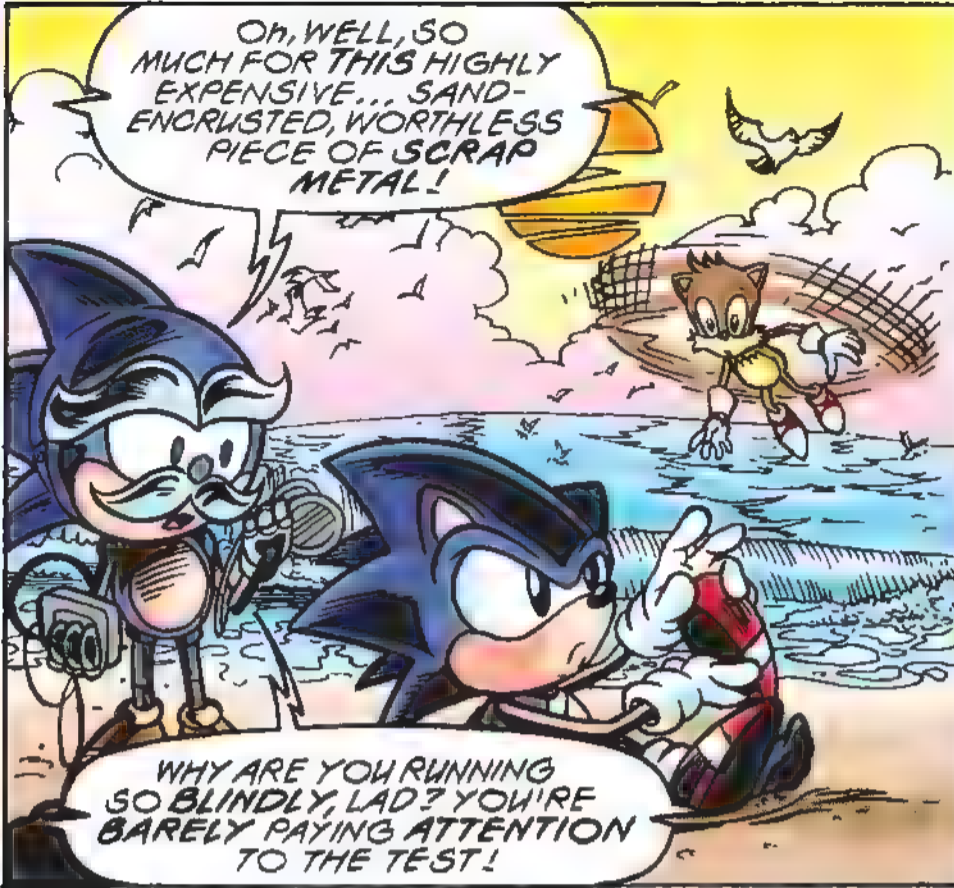
"HE WAS A PAWN TO THE EVIL IXIS NAUGUS. WHEN IXIS ESCAPED THE ZONE, KODOS WAS FREED TOO."*

EH? WHAT'S THIS? IXIS NAUGUS? KING ACORN'S FORMER ROYAL WIZARD? RETURNED?

THIS IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE THE BOSS WAS ULTIMATELY ANNIHILATED.

TELL OL' SMILEY MORE, YOU FLAT-TAILED FREAKS...

* SEE THE SOON-TO-BE-CLASSIC, SONIC #53--J. FREDDY.

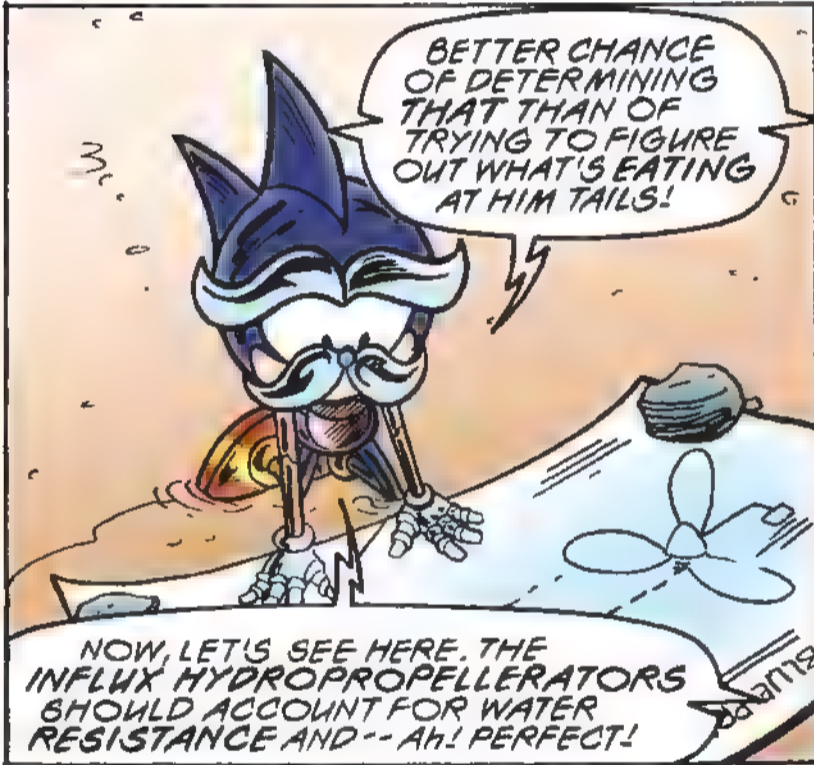


OH, WELL, SO MUCH FOR THIS HIGHLY EXPENSIVE... SAND-ENCRUSTED, WORTHLESS PIECE OF SCRAP METAL!

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING SO BLINDLY, LAD? YOU'RE BARELY PAYING ATTENTION TO THE TEST!

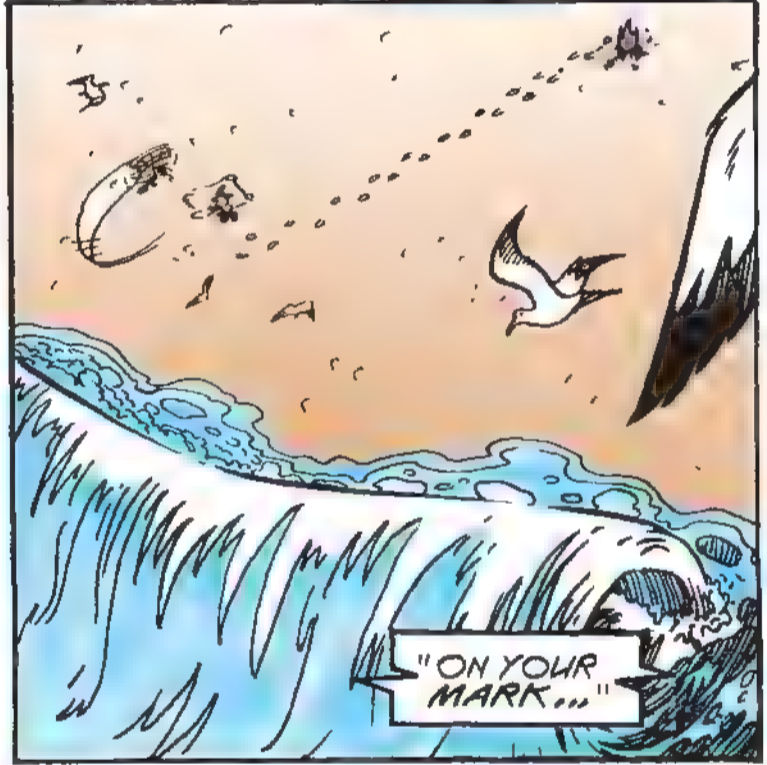


DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER REALLY KNOW HOW FAST SONIC IS, UNCLE CHUCK?

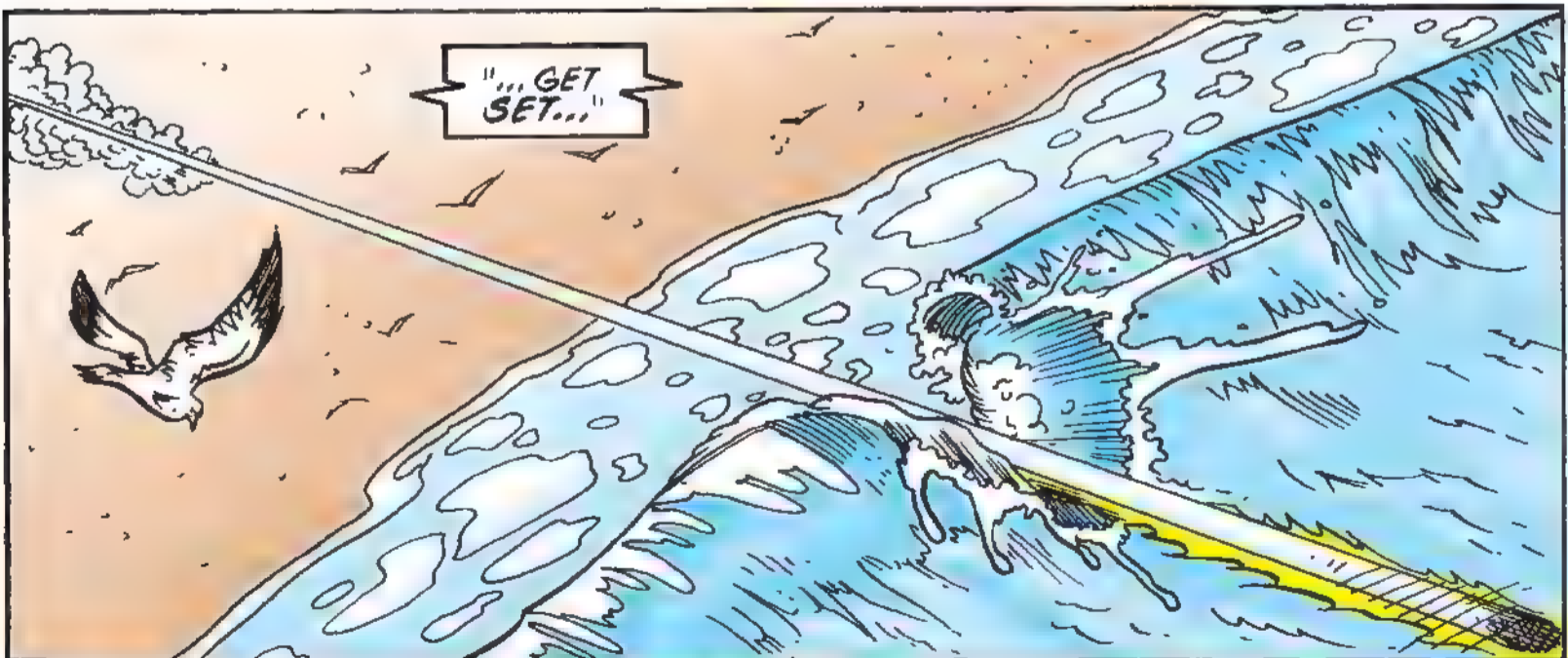


BETTER CHANCE OF DETERMINING THAT THAN OF TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S EATING AT HIM TAILS!

NOW, LET'S SEE HERE. THE INFLUX HYDROPROPELLERATORS SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR WATER RESISTANCE AND-- AH! PERFECT!

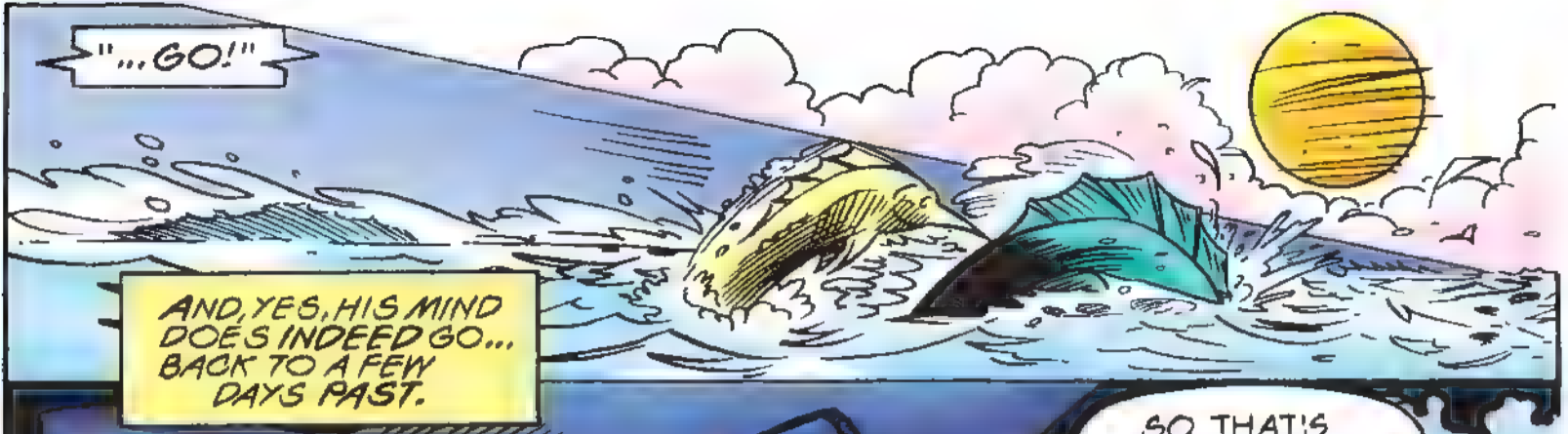


"ON YOUR MARK..."



"...GET SET..."





"...GO!"

AND, YES, HIS MIND DOES INDEED GO... BACK TO A FEW DAYS PAST.



SO THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE SCORE, GOOD BUDDY!

NOW, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, ROTOR...

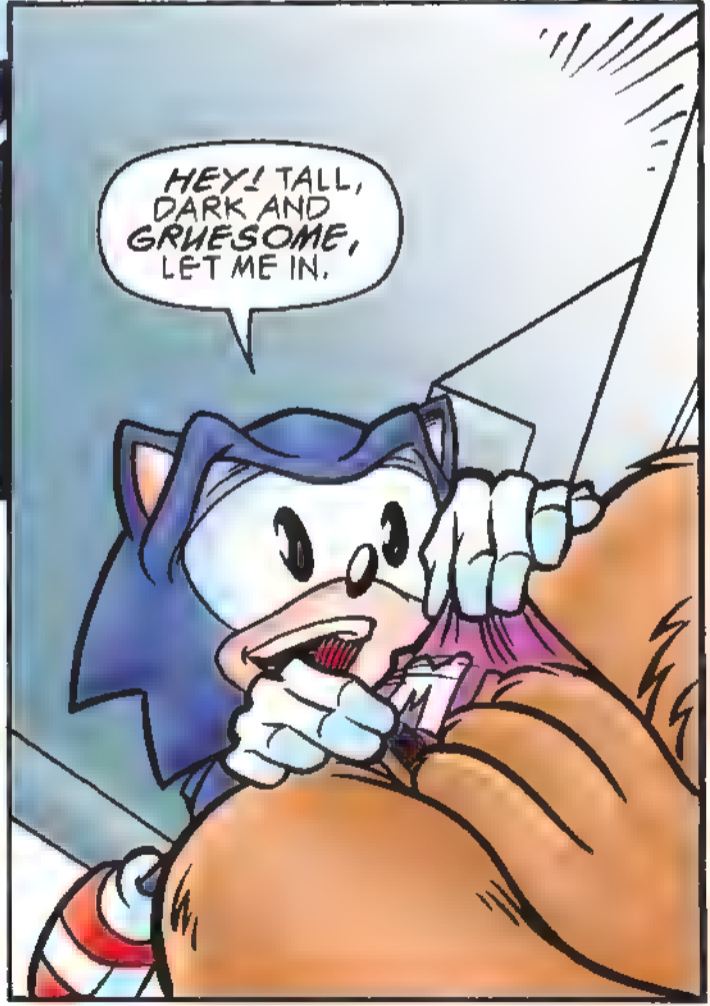
YOU WANNA TAKE A LITTLE TIME OFF TO LOOK FOR YOUR FOLKS WHO'VE BEEN MISSING SINCE THIS WHOLE MESS WITH ROBOTNIK STARTED... BUT THE PRINCESS SAID NO?



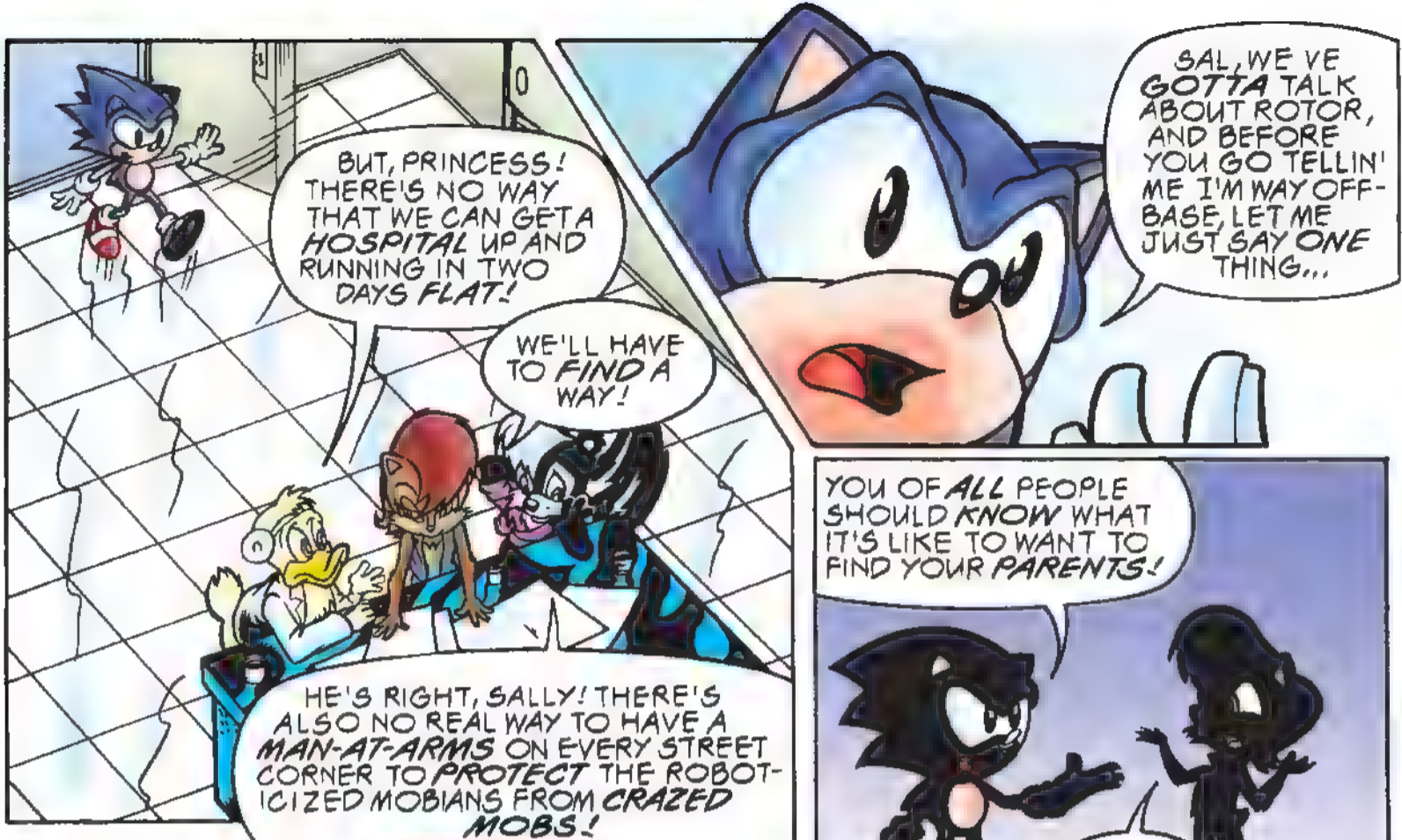
ROTOR, BELIEVE YOU ME WHEN I SAY THAT I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL. LET ME HANDLE THIS.

I KNEW YOU WOULD, GOOD BUDDY I KNEW YOU WOULD.

WELL, IF A GUY CAN'T FOLLOW HIS HEART, WHAT CAN HE FOLLOW?



HEY! TALL, DARK AND GRUESOME, LET ME IN.



BUT, PRINCESS!
THERE'S NO WAY
THAT WE CAN GET A
HOSPITAL UP AND
RUNNING IN TWO
DAYS FLAT!

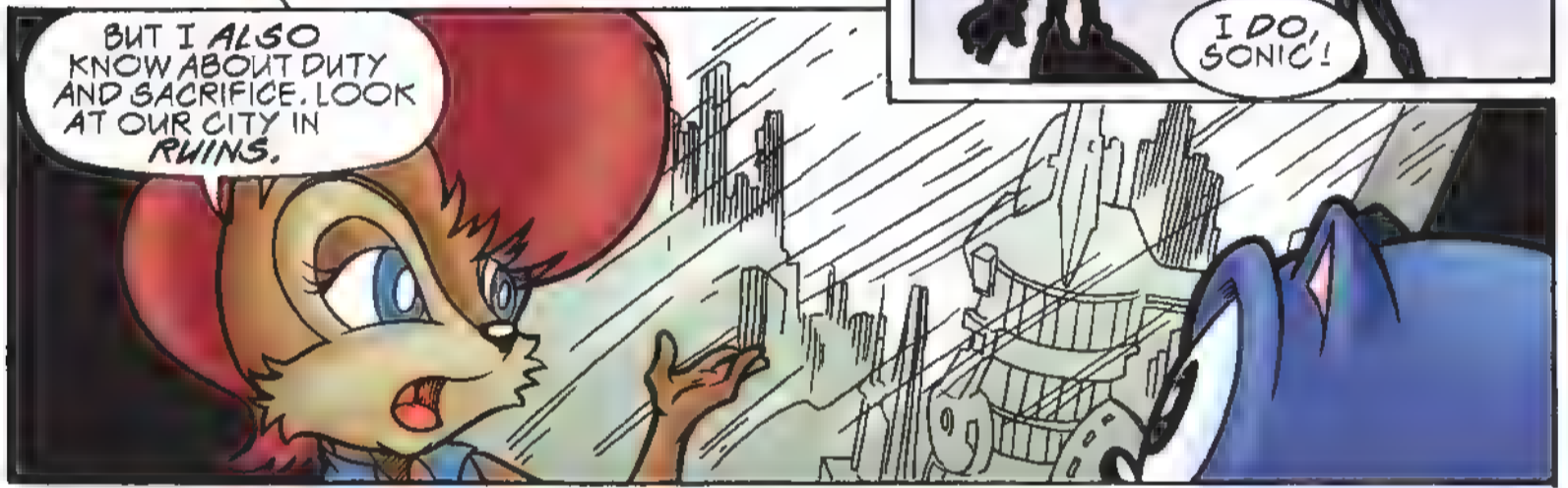
WE'LL HAVE
TO FIND A
WAY!

SAL, WE'VE
GOTTA TALK
ABOUT ROTOR,
AND BEFORE
YOU GO TELLIN'
ME I'M WAY OFF-
BASE, LET ME
JUST SAY ONE
THING...



YOU OF ALL PEOPLE
SHOULD KNOW WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO WANT TO
FIND YOUR PARENTS!

I DO,
SONIC!



BUT I ALSO
KNOW ABOUT DUTY
AND SACRIFICE. LOOK
AT OUR CITY IN
RUINS.



WE NEED ROTOR'S
TECHNOLOGICAL
SKILLS NOW MORE
THAN EVER IF WE'RE
EVER GOING TO GET
BACK ON TRACK!

TELL HIM IT
WON'T TAKE TOO
MUCH LONGER. I
PROMISE.



SO,
HOW'D IT
GO?

WELL, I...
Uhh...

T HE GULAG...

...AND THIS ONE I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF.

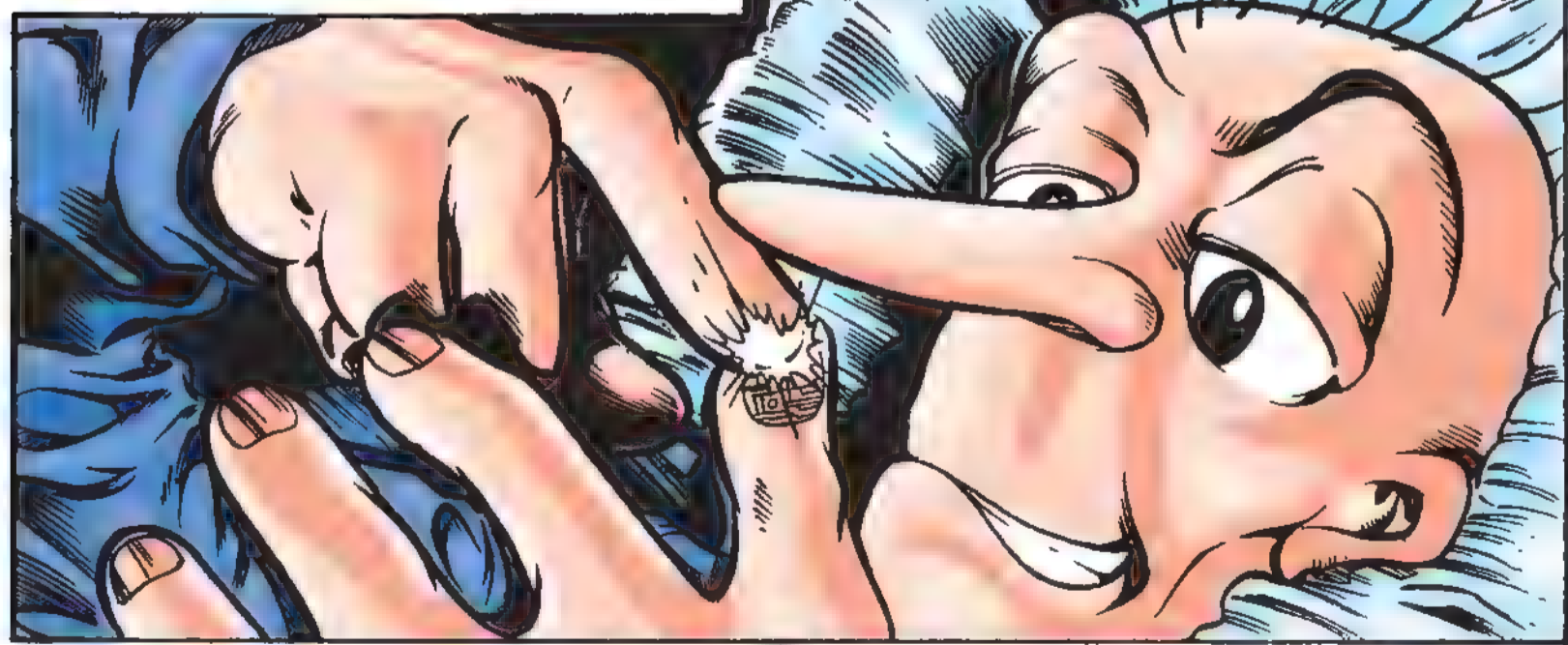
I KNOW! HER NAME IS LIMA ARACHNIS, BUT BEYOND THAT AND THE FACT THAT SHE'S A NINJA WARRIOR, SHE'S A MYSTERY TO EVERYONE!

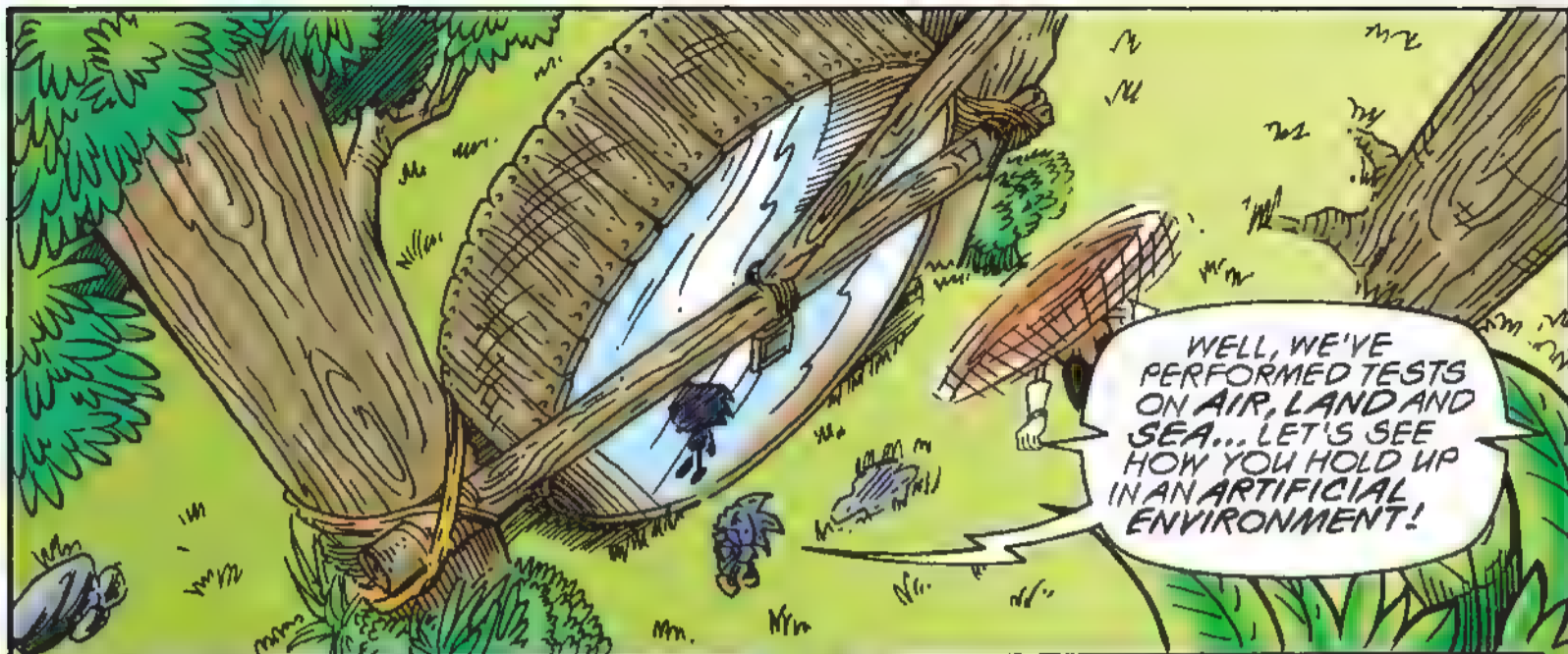
WELL, WE DO KNOW THAT SHE'S ANOTHER OF IXIS' FLUNKIES AND THAT MEANS SHE'S DEFINITELY BAD NEWS!

"NO MATTER HOW WICKED SHE WAS, NO ONE DESERVES TO BE FROZEN IN A CRYSTAL STATE!"

IT'S HER OWN FAULT! SHE AND KODOS SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT NO GOOD COULD BEFALL THEM WHILE WORKING WITH AN EVIL WIZARD LIKE IXIS.

Hmm... WELL, IF IXIS NAUGUS HAS INDEED RETURNED... AND THERE'S POWER TO BE EXPLOITED... I HAVE TO FIND IT!





WELL, WE'VE PERFORMED TESTS ON AIR, LAND AND SEA... LET'S SEE HOW YOU HOLD UP IN AN ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENT!

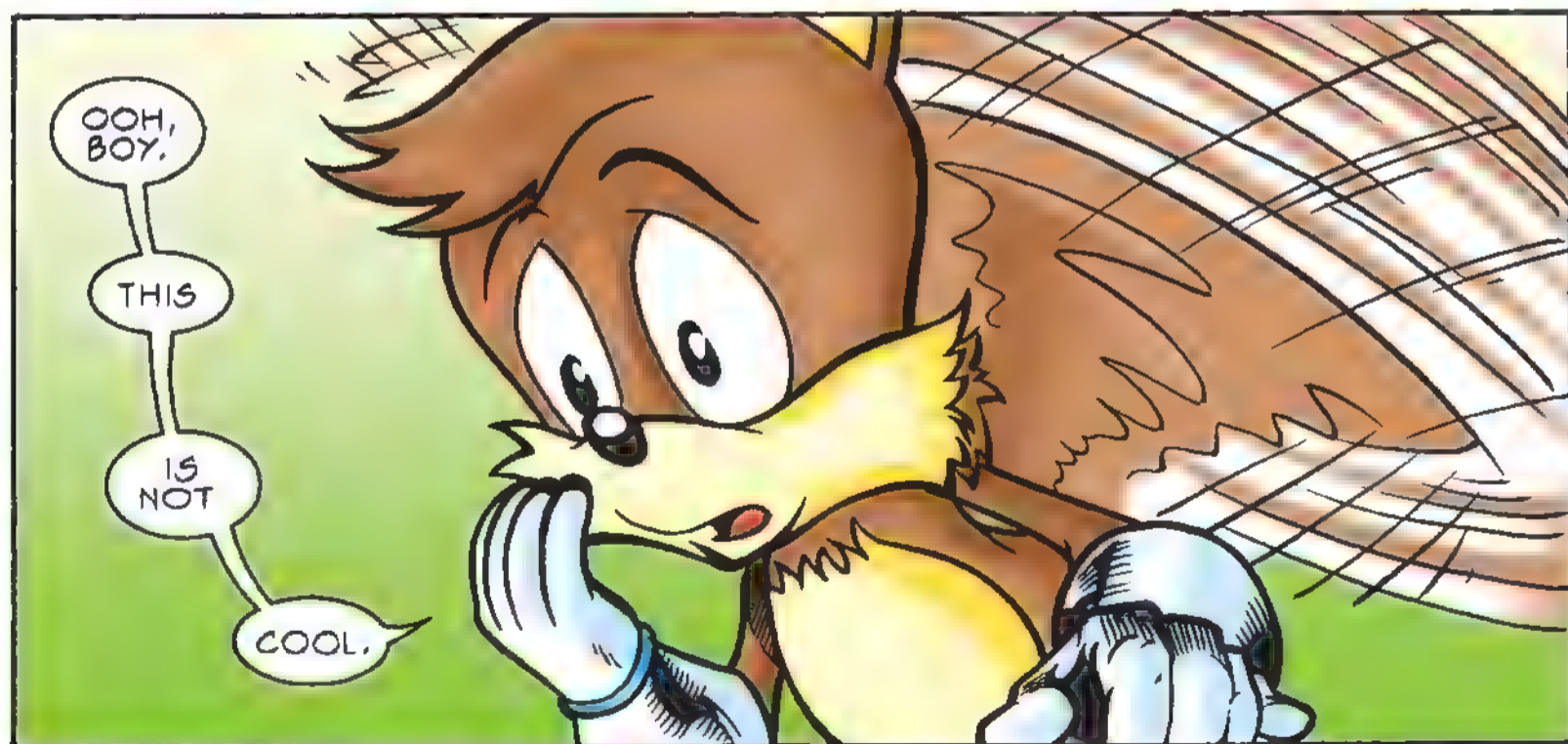


AN ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENT? I I THOUGHT I'D ALREADY BEEN IN ONE.

WHAT EVER DO YOU MEAN?



WELL, TELLING SOMEBODY THEIR FOLKS ARE DEAD WHEN THEY RE REALLY NOT IS SORT OF LIKE MAKING THEM LIVE IN AN UNREAL--PHONEY--FALSE--ARTIFICIAL WORLD.

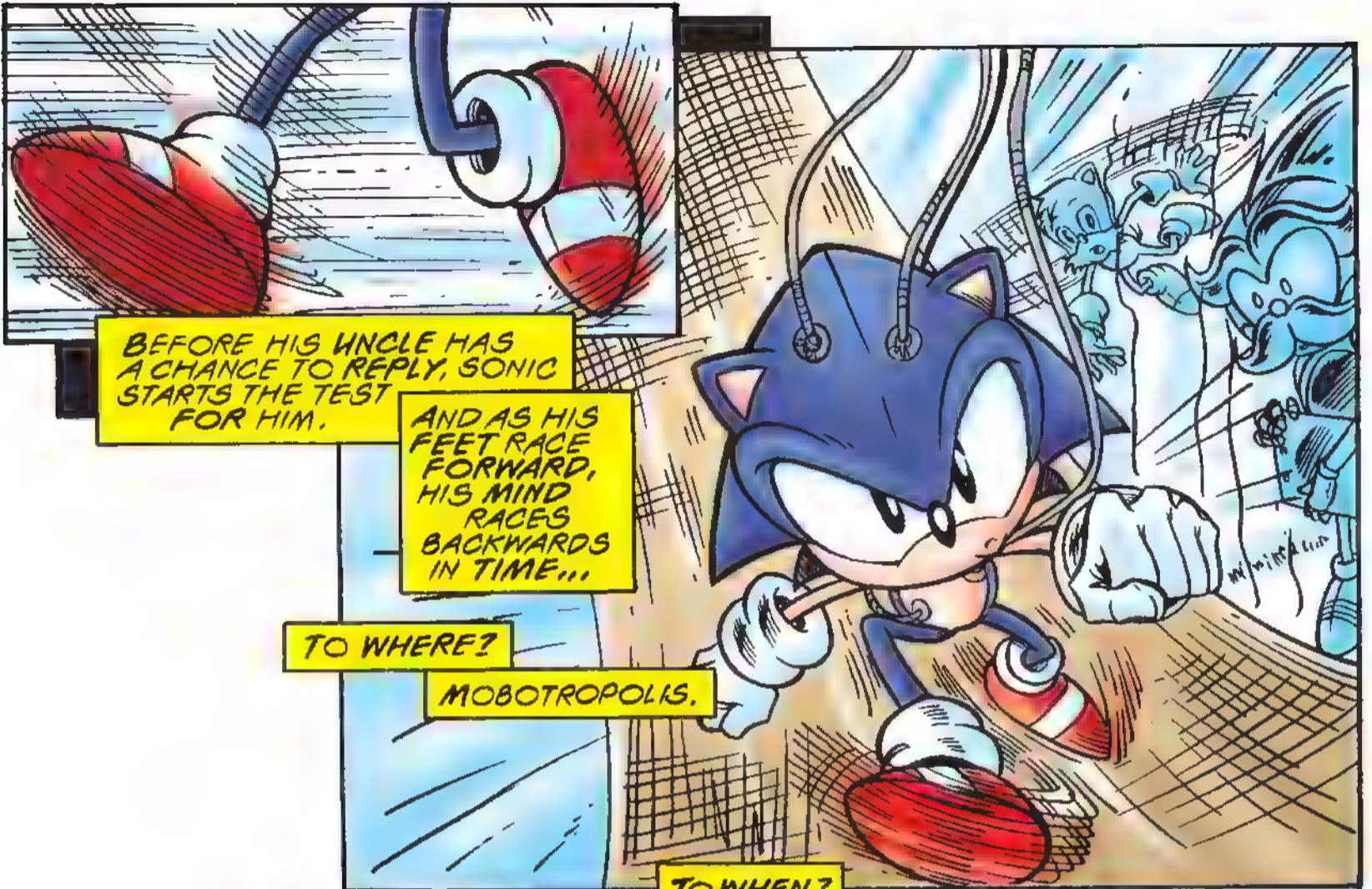


OOH, BOY.

THIS

IS NOT

COOL.



BEFORE HIS UNCLE HAS A CHANCE TO REPLY, SONIC STARTS THE TEST FOR HIM.

AND AS HIS FEET RACE FORWARD, HIS MIND RACES BACKWARDS IN TIME...

TO WHERE?

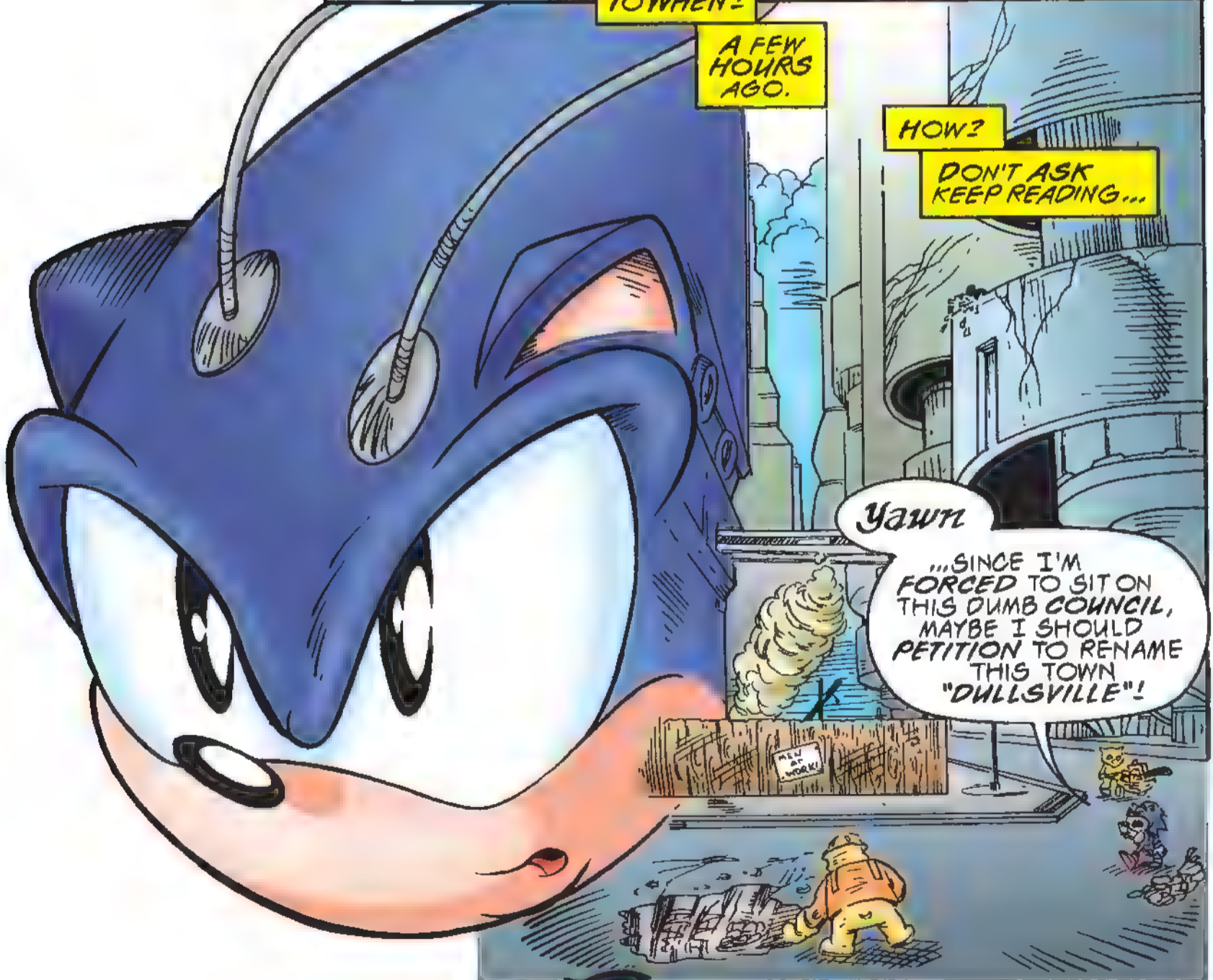
MOBOTROPOLIS.

TO WHEN?

A FEW HOURS AGO.

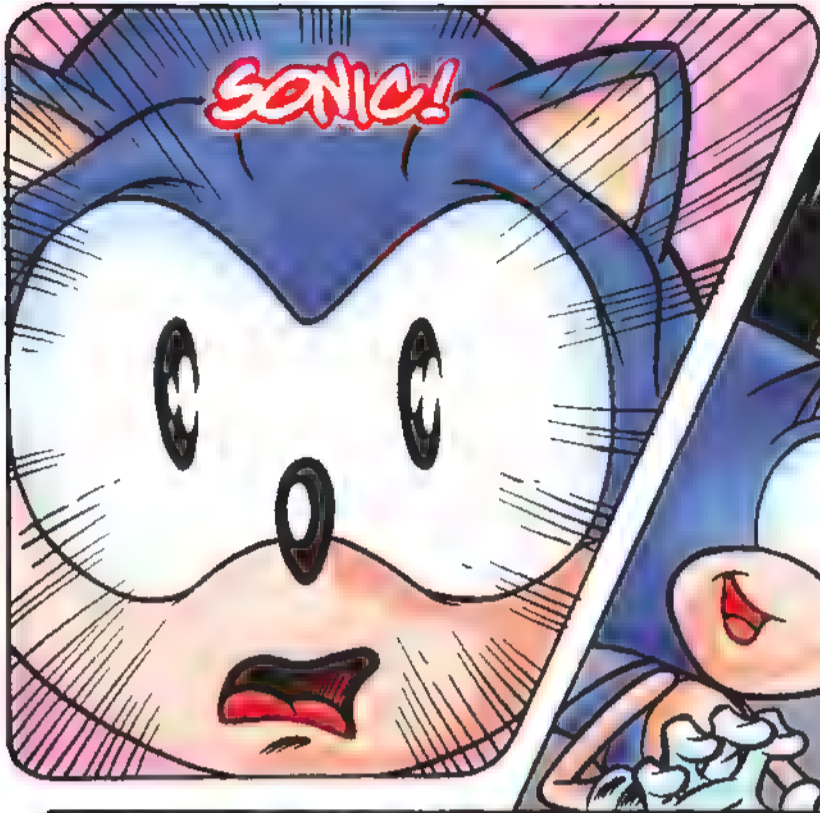
HOW?

DON'T ASK KEEP READING...



Yawn

...SINCE I'M FORCED TO SIT ON THIS DUMB COUNCIL, MAYBE I SHOULD PETITION TO RENAME THIS TOWN "DULLSVILLE"!



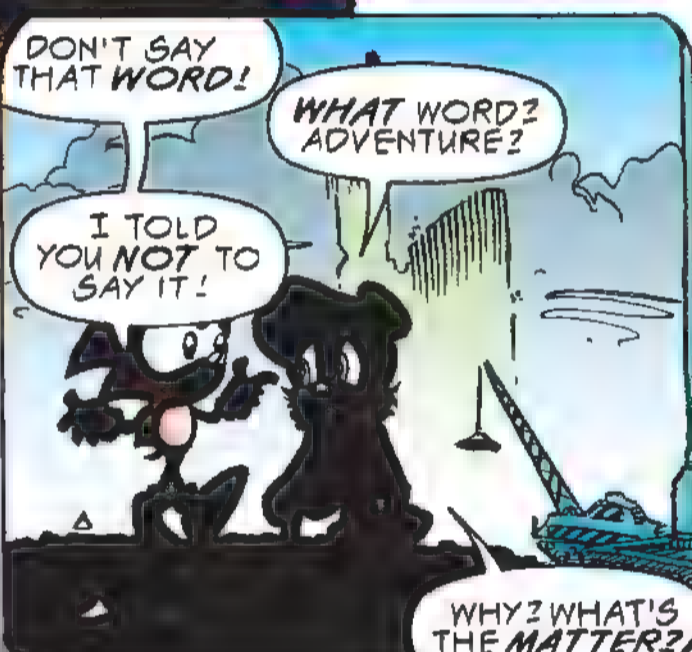
ROSIE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

"RAARGH! I'M THE EVIL DR. ROBOTNIK AND I'M GONNA METALIZE YOU!"

RUN!



PLAYING OF COURSE! LOOK AT THEM! THEY'RE OFF ON SOME EXCITING ADVENTURE!



DON'T SAY THAT WORD!

WHAT WORD? ADVENTURE?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO SAY IT!

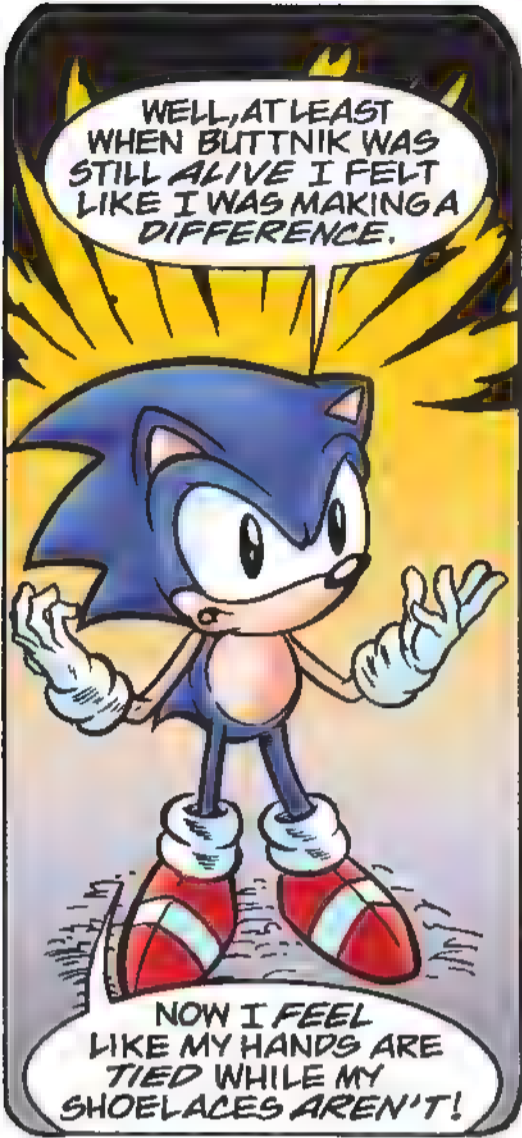
WHY? WHAT'S THE MATTER?



WELL, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT EVERYTHING STINKS NOW THAT ROBOTNIK IS GONE!

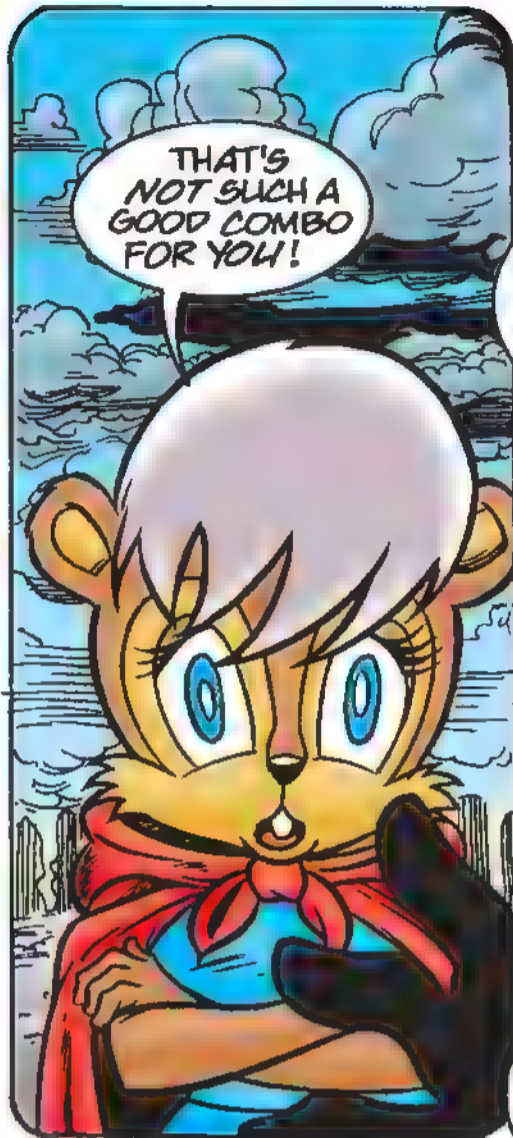


WHAT?! SONIC, ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?

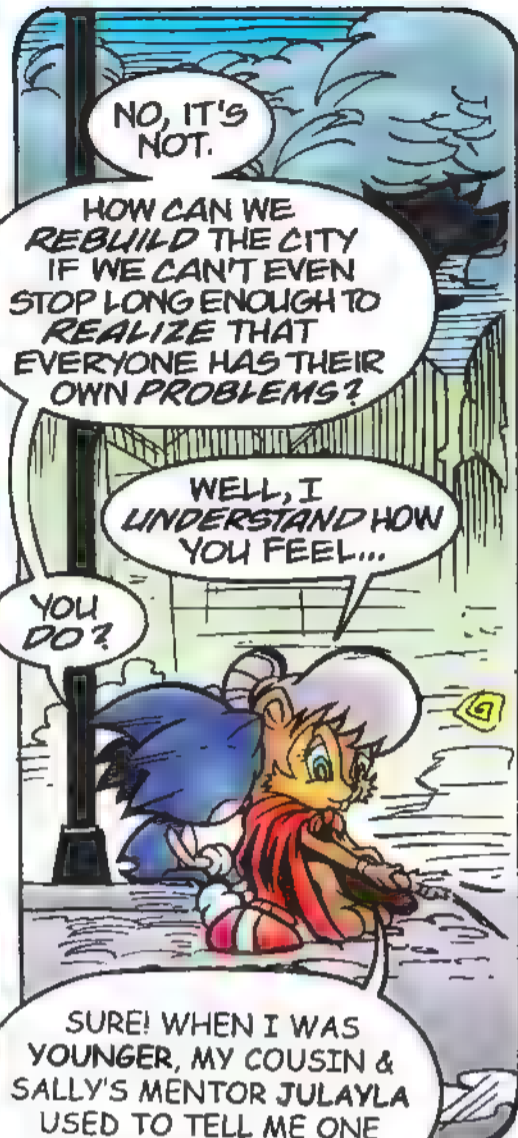


WELL, AT LEAST WHEN BUTTNIK WAS STILL ALIVE I FELT LIKE I WAS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

NOW I FEEL LIKE MY HANDS ARE TIED WHILE MY SHOELACES AREN'T!



THAT'S NOT SUCH A GOOD COMBO FOR YOU!



NO, IT'S NOT.

HOW CAN WE REBUILD THE CITY IF WE CAN'T EVEN STOP LONG ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PROBLEMS?

WELL, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL...

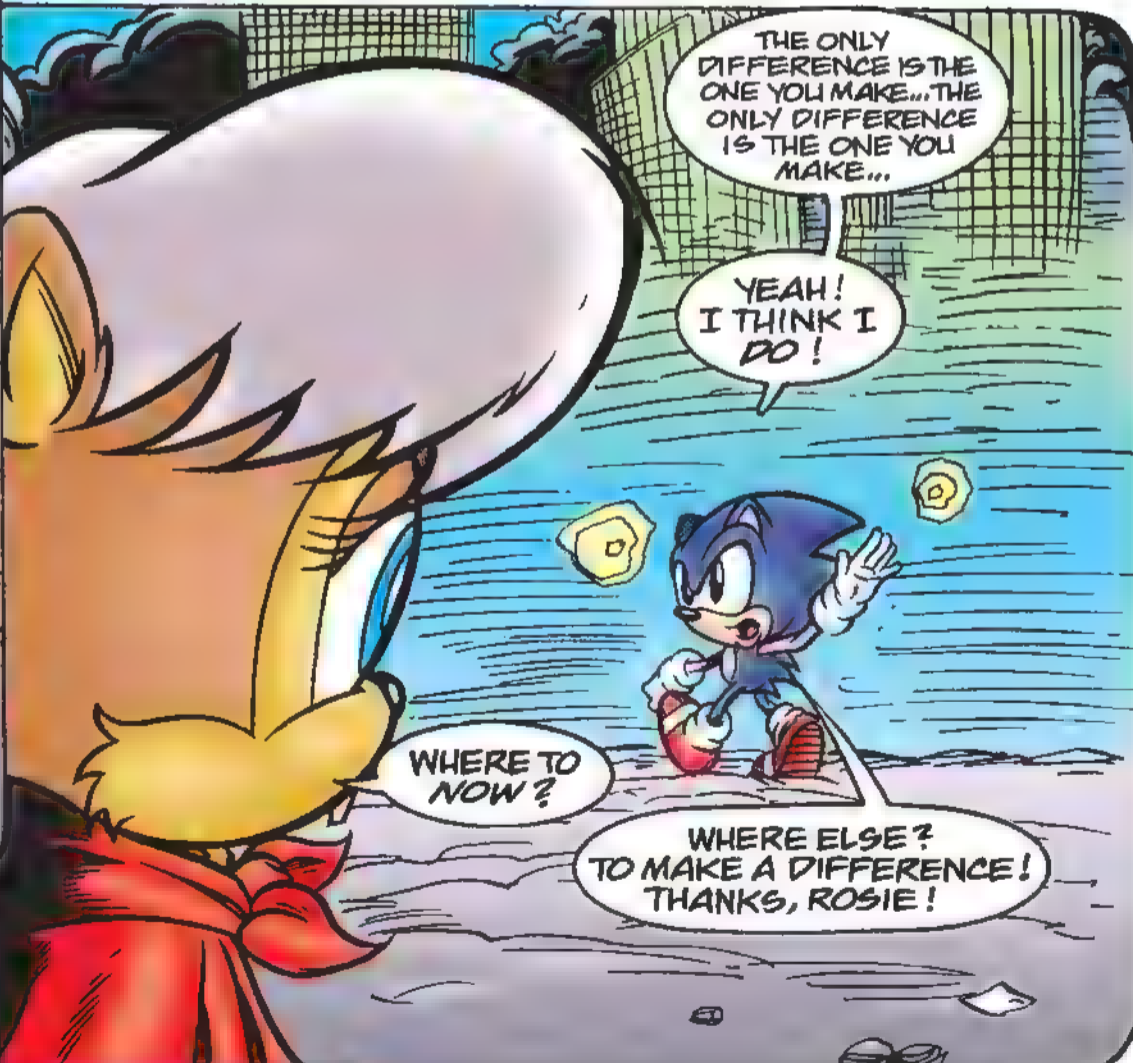
YOU DO?

SURE! WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, MY COUSIN & SALLY'S MENTOR JULAYLA USED TO TELL ME ONE IMPORTANT THING...



THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE ONE YOU MAKE.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND SORT OF?



THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE ONE YOU MAKE... THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE ONE YOU MAKE...

YEAH! I THINK I DO!

WHERE TO NOW?

WHERE ELSE? TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! THANKS, ROSIE!

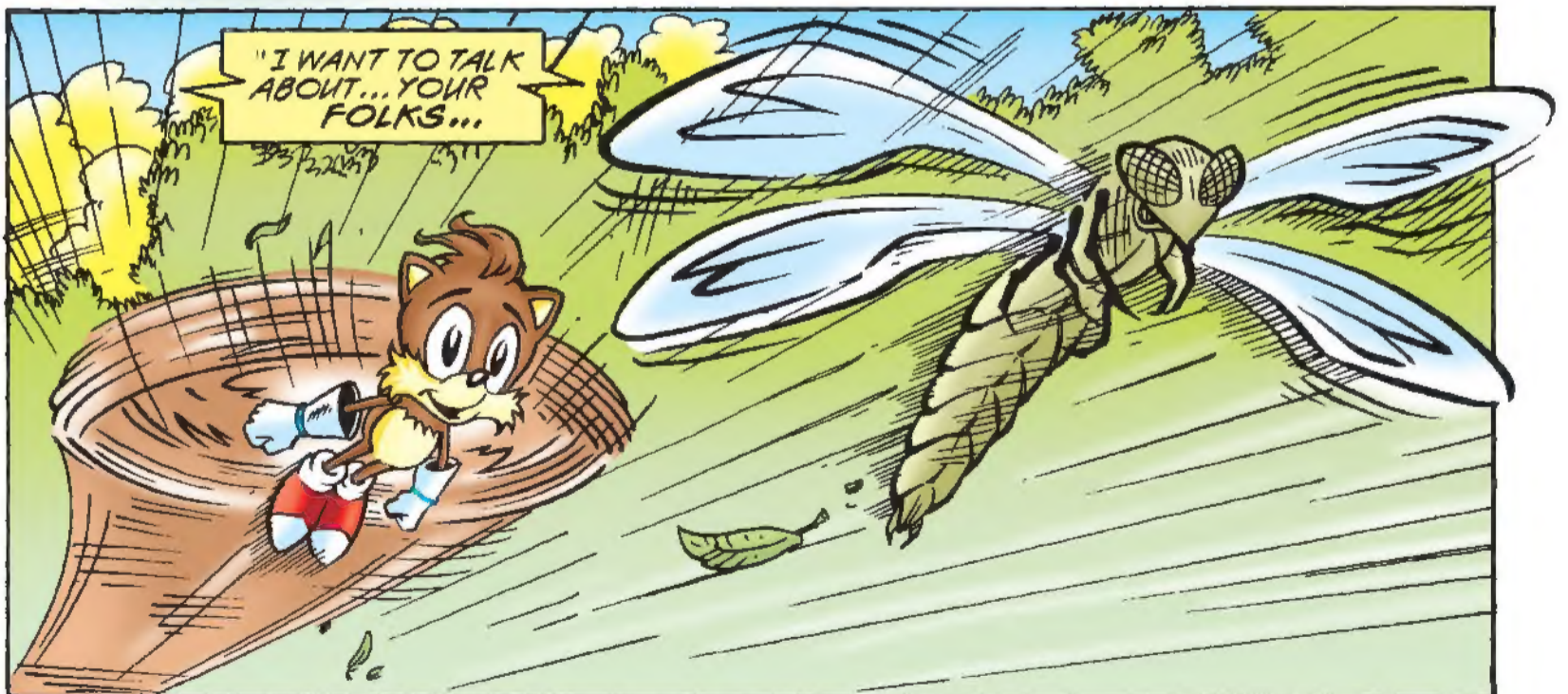
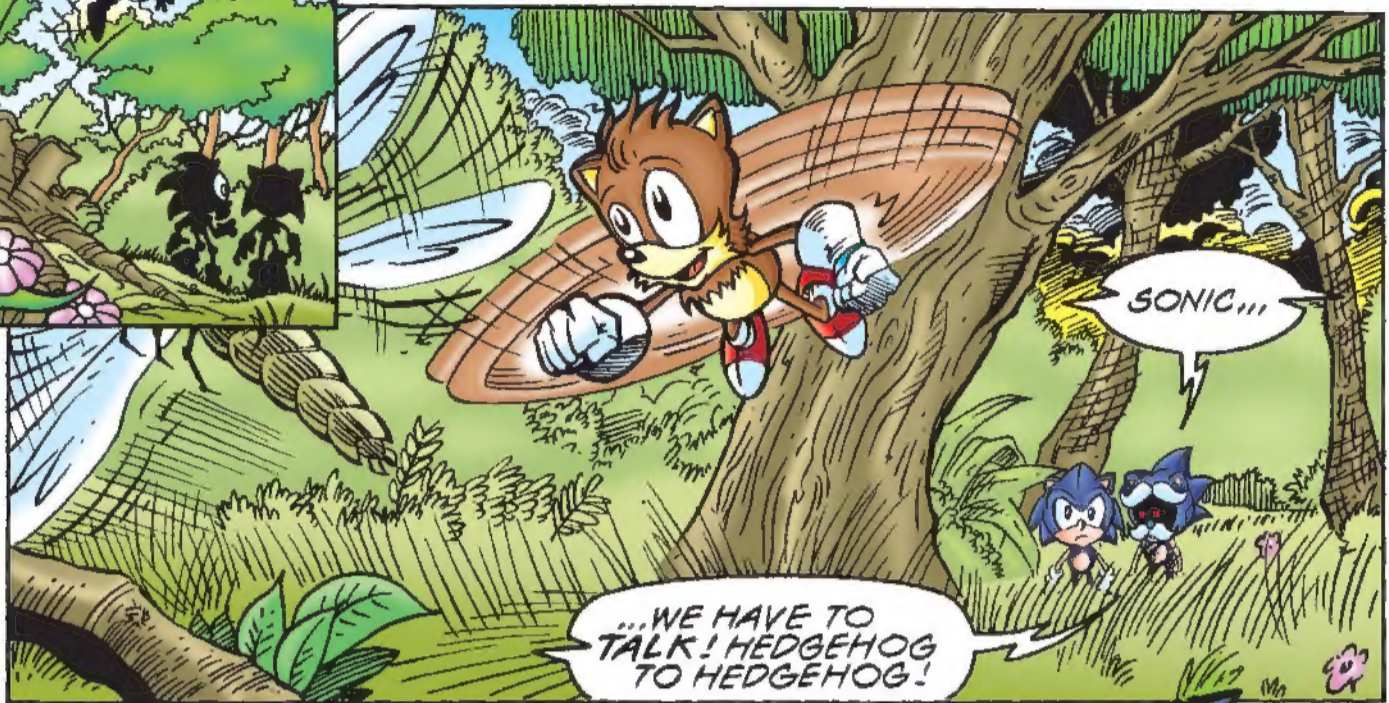
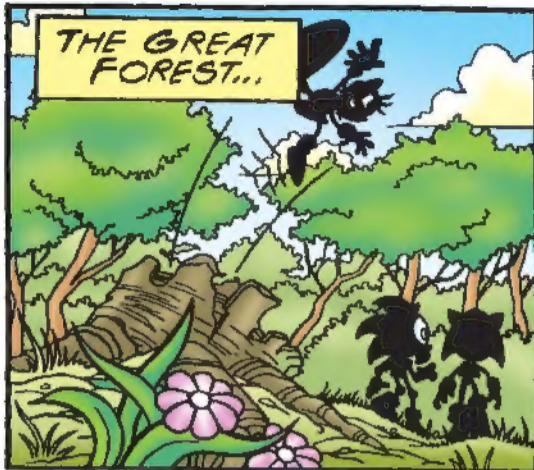
NOT THE GULAG...

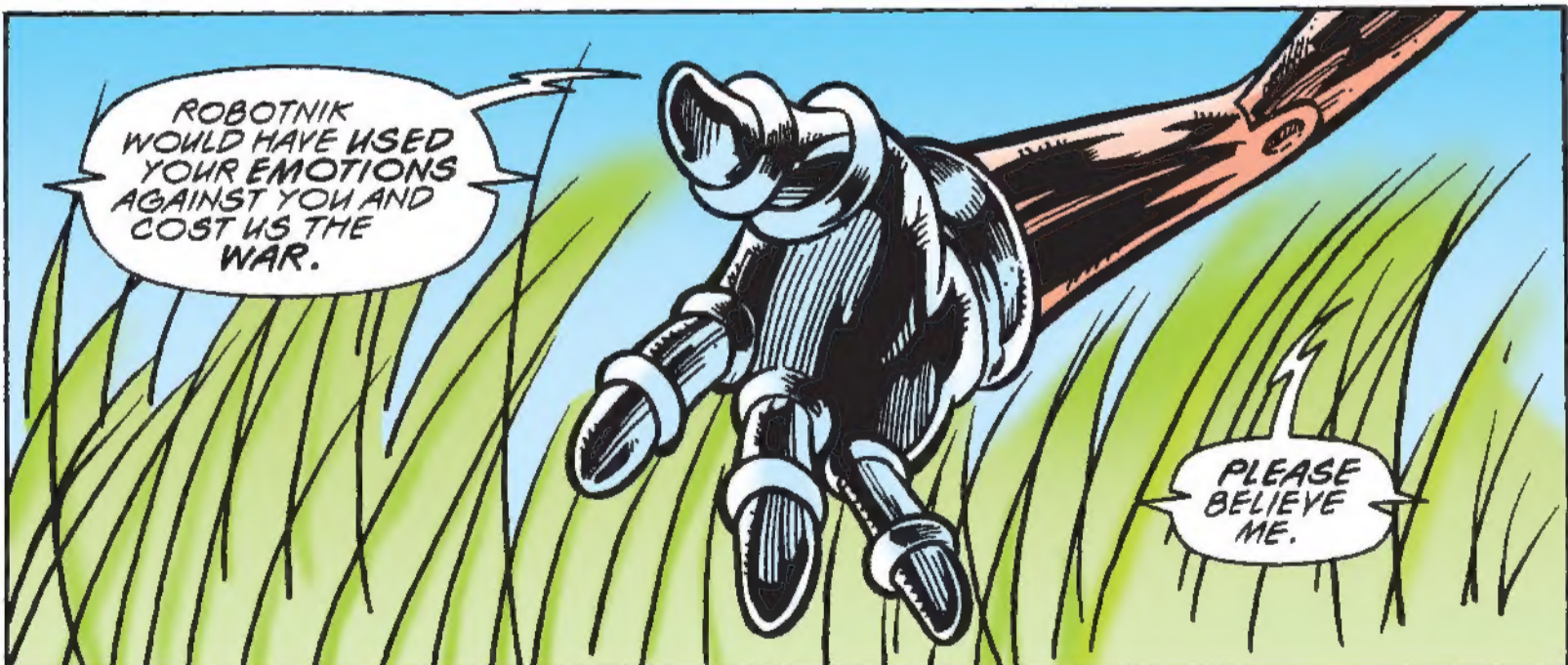
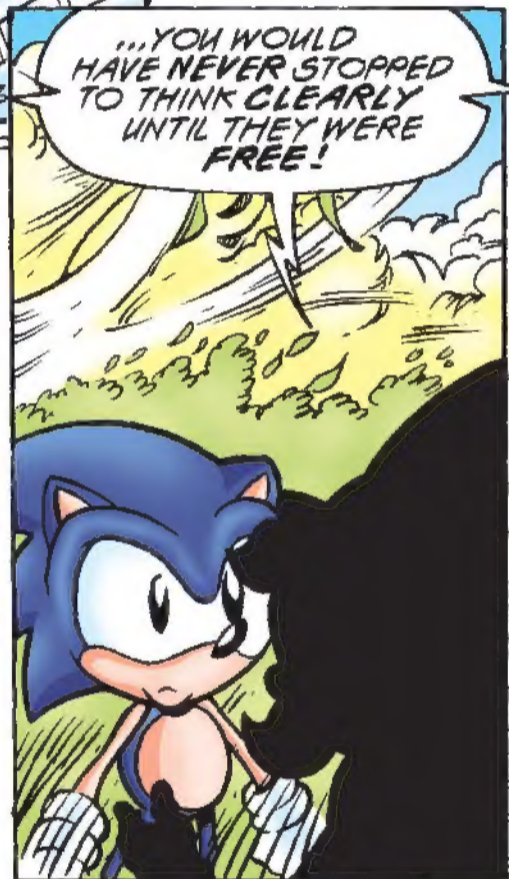
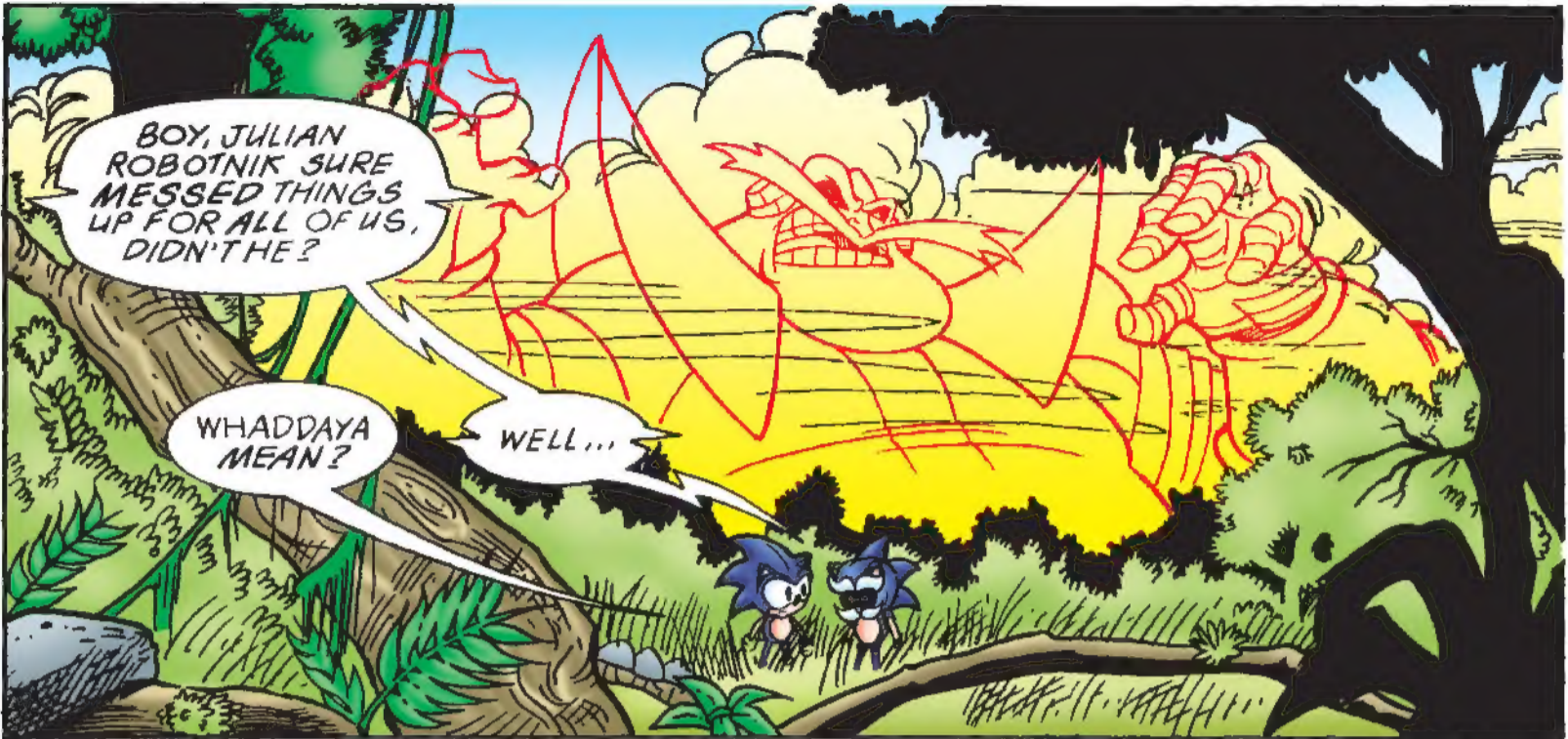
...BUT SOMEWHERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO IT THAT THE REMOTE-CONTROLLED RADIO SIGNAL EMITTED FROM BENEATH SNIVELY'S THUMB...

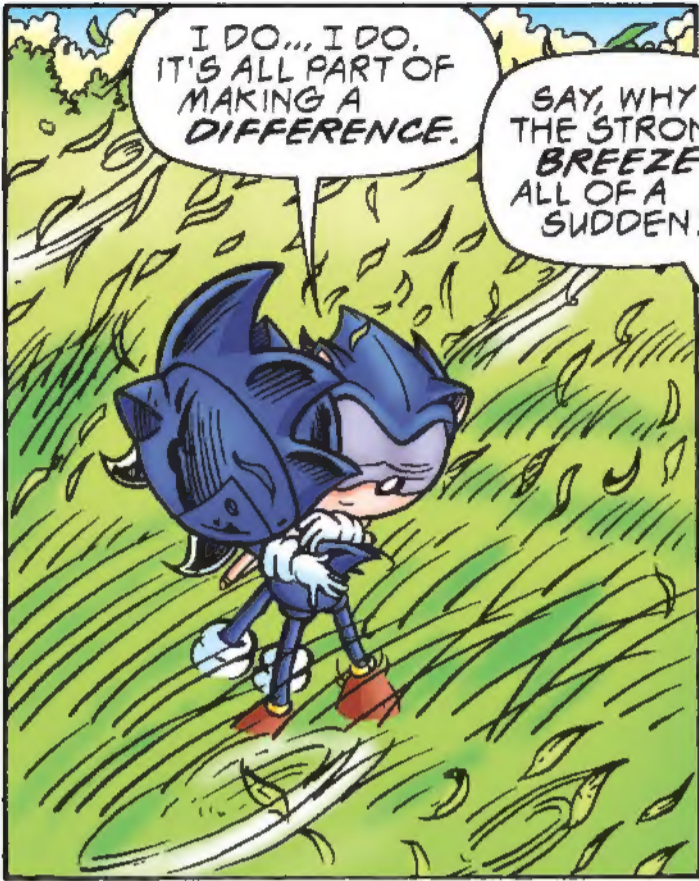
...HAS A DEFINITE EFFECT!

THE EGGBOOTS HAVE ARRIVED!

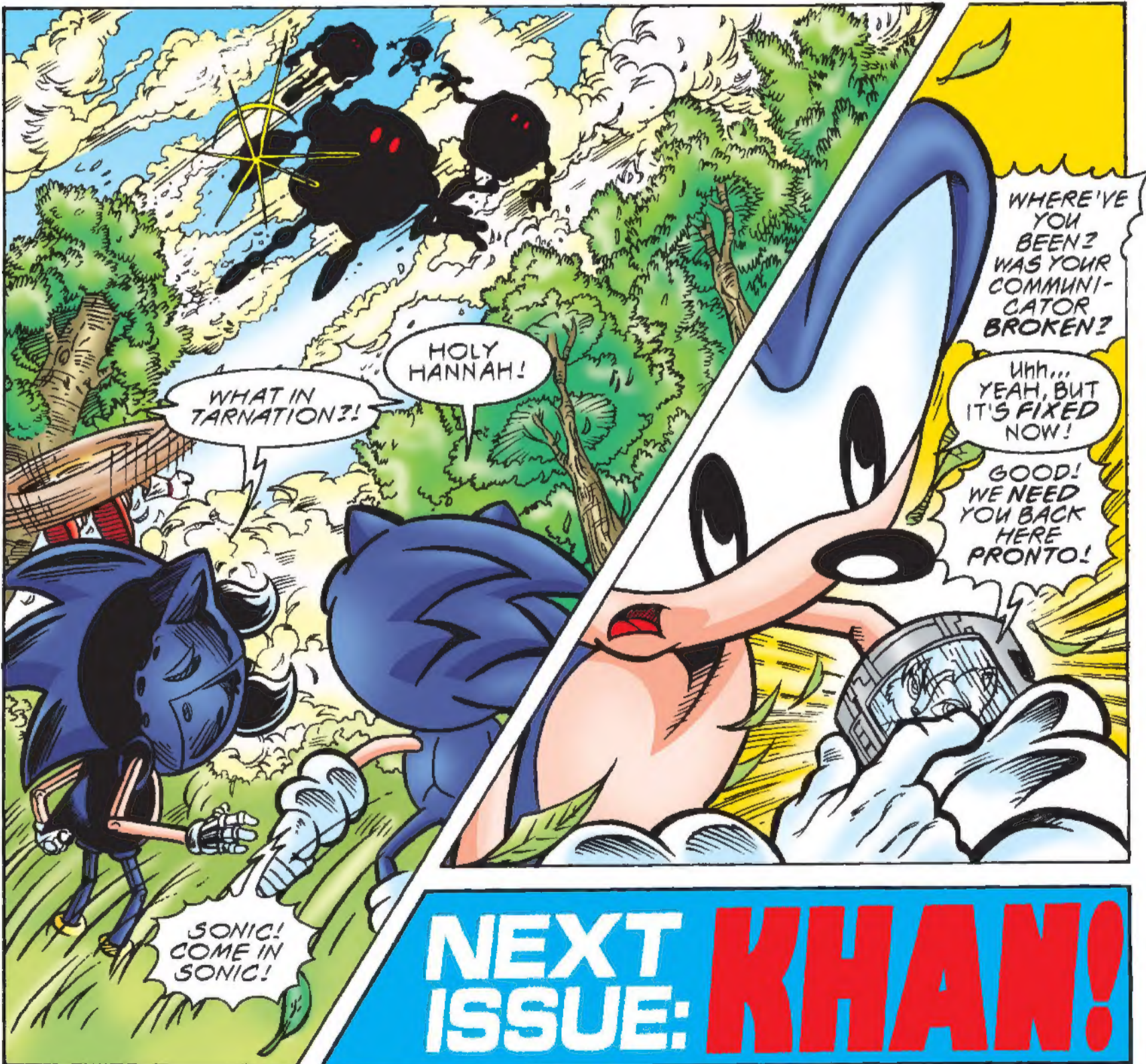
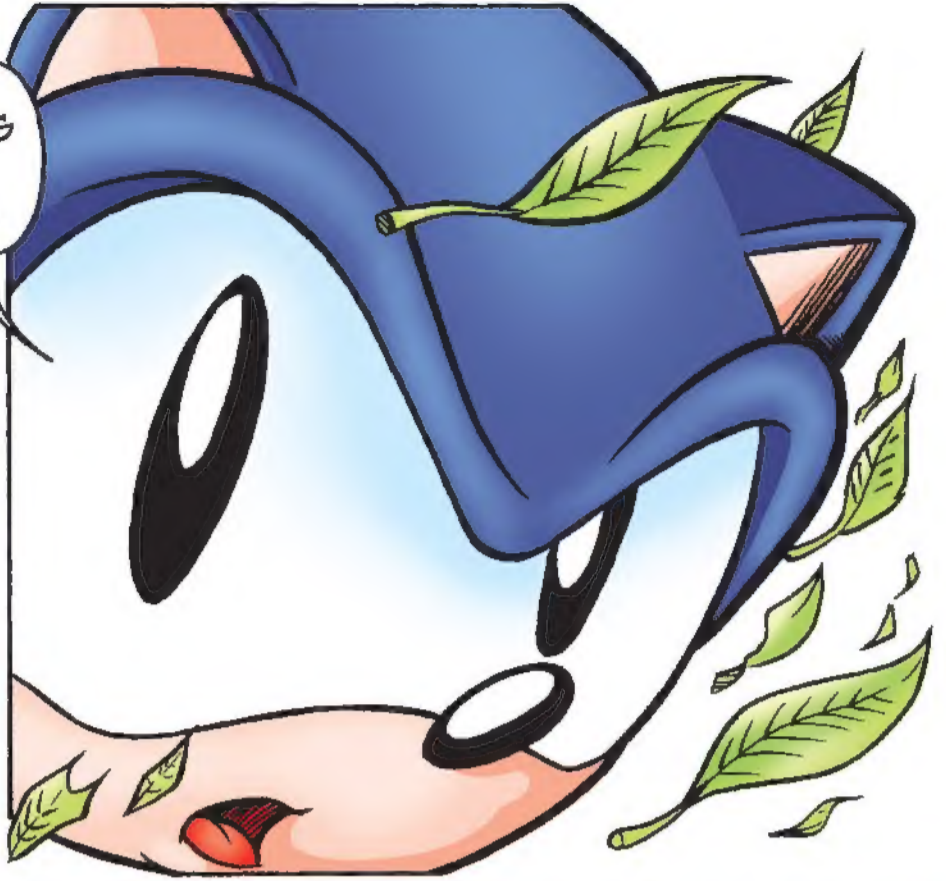
PROGRAMMED TO TRACK UNIQUE ENERGY SIGNATURES, THEY ROCKET TOWARDS THE HEAVENS TO DO THE BIDDING OF THEIR INCARCERATED MASTER—FIND THE WIZARD, IXIS NAUGUS!







SAY, WHY
THE STRONG
BREEZE
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?



**NEXT
ISSUE: KHAN!**